

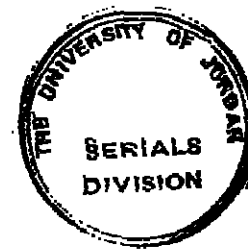
Khribet Al Samra crops to be destroyed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet decided Saturday to destroy all vegetables irrigated by Khribet Al Samra water upon a recommendation issued by a committee chaired by Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kayser. The Cabinet entrusted the ministry with determining lots of land irrigated by Khribet Al Samra water which was found contaminated. These lands extend from the Khribet Al Samra area down to the King Talal Dam. According to the Cabinet decision, farmers in the area will only be allowed to plant forest trees and plants used as animal feed. The Cabinet approved a grant agreement between the Employment and Development Fund and the European Community. The ECU 4 million grant is the remaining part of two financial protocols that aim to reduce the effects of implementing economic reform programme and to help create new job opportunities through extending loans and grants to non-governmental institutions and individuals. The grant will be used in training and preparing labour force, administering the project, aids to non-governmental institutions such as the Noor Al Hussein foundation, the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF), and the General Union of Voluntary Societies and Save the Children Fund as well as extending loans to small farmers.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي



Turkey seeks Iranian help against rebels

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin, in Tehran to discuss border security, sought Iran's help Saturday in curbing rebel Kurds and promised to cooperate in return against the Iranian opposition group Mujahadeen-e-Khalq. "We need cooperation from our neighbours in our struggle with the PKK (Kurdish Labour Party)," Mr. Sezgin told Anatolian news agency after meeting his Iranian counterpart Abdolrahman Nouri. He also promised the release of an Iran-bound, arms-laden Cyprus-registered ship whose seizure by Turkey last October soured relations between Tehran and Ankara. Welcoming Mr. Sezgin's call for cooperation, Mr. Nouri said Iran would do its part to secure the border against infiltration by the PKK, whose eight-year fight for an independent Kurdish state in southeast Turkey has cost 4,500 lives. "But in return, Turkey must not allow the activities of groups opposed to our regime," Mr. Nouri said. "The Mujahadeen-e-Khalq is killing our officials and people. Regrettably, this group is active in Turkey and no one is doing anything about it."

Volume 17 Number 5104

AMMAN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1992, RAB' AL-AWAL 16, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Sweden to probe Hammarskjold report

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden said Saturday it was seeking more information on a report that the 1961 death of Swedish U.N. Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold in a plane crash in northern Rhodesia was not accidental. Foreign ministry spokesman Claes Jernaeus said retired diplomat Bengt Rosio would travel to Britain Monday. He will meet with one or both of the former U.N. officials who have made public new charges that Mr. Hammarskjold's plane was downed by mercenaries working for Belgium mining interests in the Congo (later Zaire). The trip, "is to find out what happened that day, not only because Dag Hammarskjold was Swedish, but because the (six) crew members of the plane were Swedish also," Mr. Jernaeus said.

Moroccan leftists to boycott polls

RABAT (R) — The avant-garde Democratic and Socialist Party (PADS) said on Saturday it would boycott the first elections in Morocco in eight years. The leftist party called on Moroccans to boycott the municipal and regional elections on Oct. 16 "to express their indignation and their refusal of the democratic facade, cheating and falsification." The PADS said the radical offshoot of the Socialist Union of People's Forces (USFP), one of the leading opposition parties — is the first group to announce its position on the elections. Elections to renew the 306-seat chamber of representatives are expected to follow in November. The PADS said the results of referendum on a new constitution on Sept. 4 showed the authorities had "falsified the popular will in a trivial fashion, giving a humiliating and distorted image of the Moroccan people."

Rafsanjani returns to Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani returned to Tehran Saturday after a two-week trip to London, Pakistan and China. The official Islamic Republic News Agency said Mr. Rafsanjani noted that China had agreed to provide a nuclear reactor to Iran. The United States criticized the deal as "highly imprudent" because of fears Iran might develop nuclear weapons, but the news agency reported no comment on that criticism by Mr. Rafsanjani. Both Tehran and Beijing insist the nuclear cooperation is not aimed at producing weapons.

Djibouti says 39 rebels killed

DJIBOUTI (R) — Djibouti army commander Colonel Fati Hassan said Saturday 39 rebels had been killed and many wounded in renewed clashes in northern Djibouti. Three government soldiers were killed and six wounded in the fighting which began Thursday, he said. Col. Hassan said rebels of the Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy (FRUD) attacked government positions at Obock, a town on the northeastern coast of the tiny Red Sea state. He said the armed forces and para-military police were in control of the area and seized large quantities of equipment from the rebels. There was no immediate explanation for the fighting which follows a constitutional referendum designed to bring Djibouti into line with the tide of multi-party reform in Africa.

Algerian extremists vow more killings

ALGIERS (R) — Muslim fundamentalists said on Saturday they gunned down an Algerian communist and vowed that other "infidels" would also die. Abdul Rahman Belazhar, the first political activist killed amid months of attacks on security forces and government officials, was shot by gunmen waiting for him outside his home in Constantine Tuesday. Most of the attacks have been blamed on the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). The fundamentalists, speaking in the name of the FIS, said the man "had been found guilty of acting many times as an informer which had cost several FIS militants dearly."

Jordan hopes for Israeli seriousness in fresh talks

THE HEAD of the Jordanian team to peace talks with Israel has expressed hope that the Israeli side would be more forthcoming and serious when the negotiations resume in Washington Monday after a 10-day recess. Noting that the two sides were wide apart on defining a common agenda for the talks recessed on Sept. 4, Dr. Abdul Salam Majali also cautioned against expecting quick results in the peace process.

"The peace process is complicated," Dr. Majali was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra. "The (Arab-Israeli) conflict is decades old and cannot be resolved in a matter of days or weeks," he told Petra in Washington. Dr. Majali said the negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track were distinct from other tracks since the issues to be tackled were clear and dealt with many issues seriously and effectively with no ambiguity.

When the bilateral talks resumed for the sixth round on Aug. 24, we did not feel any basic change in the Israeli position despite the change in the leadership in Israel" with the government of Labour leader Yitzhak Rabin assuming power only a few weeks earlier. There was indeed a shift in the Israeli stand in that the Jewish state has now acknowledged that it seeks a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem, he said. "The Israelis have stopped

their attempts to reach unilateral deals with Arab states," he said, describing it as a positive step "but not enough." The gap between the stands of both sides is still wide following several sessions of negotiations because of the many great expectations that were not met in negotiations," he said. However, "there is still a big chance that the Israeli side would return to the negotiating table with new directives and deal with the process more seriously."

Dr. Majali stressed that the issue of a common agenda for the Jordanian-Israeli track was not a procedural matter, but an issue of substance, adding that it was not strange for it to consume a longer time. In this regard, he said, "we feel that some points were agreed upon, and some others are being studied... (and) we hope that we reach a unified agenda for both sides so that we could choose afterwards issues for the serious negotiations."

Dr. Majali said if the Israeli delegation returns without anything new on the issue of a common agenda, "then it would prove that they do not want peace."

He said that "what matters in this regard is not how fast progress is achieved. What is important is that the final solutions should be parallel in all tracks." Dr. Majali referred to the Palestinian-Israeli track, saying that it witnesses continuous changes. He said the Palestinians were discussing with their Israeli counterparts the transitional period and interim government arrangements based on the letters of invitation.

He said there are common issues concerning the Jordanian and Palestinian sides and that these issues would be discussed bilaterally without the presence of the U.S. officials.

(Continued on page 5)

Sharaa rejects as silly the idea of Israel 'leasing' part of Golan

CAIRO (Agencies) — Syria's foreign minister dismissed as "silly" the idea that Israel might lease back parts of the Golan Heights in return for recognizing Syrian sovereignty. "I don't think the Israeli side has prepared this silly offer," Farouk Al Sharaa said Saturday when he arrived in Cairo for meeting of Arab League foreign ministers. Israel and Syria, breaking a diplomatic impasse in peace talks that had dragged on for months under former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, exchanged documents in Washington last week with rival proposals over the Golan and other issues. Commentators have said Israel has suggested withdrawing from part of the strategic plateau it seized during the 1967 war and temporarily leasing other parts while recognising Syrian sovereignty.

Answering a question about "Palestinian fears" that a deal between Syria and Israel would

lead to a separate peace, Mr. Sharaa said Syria's position was an unchanged demand for full and unconditional Israeli withdrawal. "There is no need for any Arab party to worry on this score as long as we are all committed to a complete solution," he said. Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Friday a "unique chance" had emerged for peace in the Middle East, ITAR-TASS news agency reported. Mr. Kozyrev was speaking after meeting Mr. Sharaa in Moscow ahead of next week's resumption of Middle East peace talks in Washington.

"As a result of compromise by all the parties... a unique chance has emerged to go further along the path of peace in the region, and this chance must not be wasted," Mr. Kozyrev told reporters.

Mr. Kozyrev said that he was keeping permanent contacts with acting U.S. Secretary of State

Lawrence Eagleburger. "Russia, in line with the United States, is responsible to help the parties involved in bilateral negotiations achieve expected results," said Mr. Kozyrev, who has also held recent meetings in Moscow with Israeli and Palestinian delegations. A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Israel should set a date for withdrawal from the occupied territories, including Arab East Jerusalem, to show its goodwill at the peace talks. Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, told reporters at Cairo airport late Friday that the new Israeli government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin should end all settlement activity in the occupied territories. "Israel has to show goodwill inside the occupied territories so that the Palestinian people can exercise their national rights," he said.

(Continued on page 5)

New Bush plan clears way for Israel loan guarantees

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Bush administration has revised an agreement to provide Israel with up to \$10 billion in loan guarantees to ensure there will be no cost to American taxpayers, according to a key member of Congress. The change appears to clear the way for swift congressional action on the guarantees.

An earlier plan had met objections from key members of Congress because the Israeli and U.S. governments would have shared the costs. Representative David Obey and Senator Patrick Leahy, Democratic chairman respectively of the House and Senate subcommittees that deal with foreign aid, had insisted that Israel pick up all of the costs. Mr. Obey said Friday he had told President George Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin he would oppose the guarantees unless it was assured that Israel pay the full costs. "The administration's revised agreement does exactly that," Mr. Obey said. A Senate aide confirmed Mr. Obey's reading of the plan.

Israel needs the guarantees to raise commercial loans to help it resettle an influx of immigrants, mostly from the former Soviet Union. Under the earlier plan Israel's contribution to the costs of the guarantees would have been limited to 3.5 per cent of their face value. The costs, a kind of risk insurance, could be assessed by the White House budget office at seven or eight per cent.

The rest, about \$350 million would have been added to the U.S. budget, already in deep difficulties. The guarantees are expected to be considered by Mr. Leahy's subcommittee next week. President Bush this week sought Jewish election support by reaffirming his commitment to Israel and apologising for criticism last year about Jewish lobbying for the guarantees in Congress. Announcing to a Jewish audience that the guarantee package would be sent to Congress this week, Mr. Bush said, "don't let any member of Congress tell you we can't afford to do this. We can, and we must."

(Continued on page 5)

Sharif Zeid returns, says King will be back soon

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki returned home Saturday after a private visit to Britain and reported that His Majesty King Hussein was in good health and expected to return home soon. The King, who underwent a successful surgery to address a urinary tract complaint at an American hospital Aug. 21 and arrived in London early this month for recuperation, is recovering "very well... better than expected," Sharif Zeid told Jordan Television in a short statement upon arrival. "I met him on Thursday (Sept. 10) and again I accompanied him to the Farnborough airshow on Friday," Sharif Zeid said. "He is in good health."

"I don't have an exact date," Sharif Zeid said in reply to a question when the King was expected to return home. "But we will announce the date when we have it... it should be in a very short while."



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker (second from left) and Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki (third from left) are received upon their return home Saturday by Deputy Prime Minister Thounqan Al Hindawi (left) and Deputy Prime Minister Ali Subeimat (Petra photo)

U.S. assails Chinese nuclear sale to Iran

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — China's sale of a nuclear reactor to Iran will inevitably increase Iran's nuclear capability and was a "highly imprudent" move, the State Department says. The department said Friday in a strong statement objecting to the sale that the facility could be used to develop nuclear weapons. The agreement was announced Thursday during a visit to Beijing by Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani. U.S. officials said Iran also was expected to reach an agreement on a nuclear power deal with Russia later this month. Iran agreed to subject the Chinese reactor to international safeguards, but State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the possibility to build nuclear weapons could not be ruled out.

The deal with China "would inevitably result in an enhancement of Iran's nuclear infrastructure, which could be applied to activities of direct nuclear non-proliferation concern," Mr. Boucher said. "The Iranian regime's conduct in recent years raises serious questions about whether Iran can be trusted to live up to its commitments in the nuclear non-proliferation area," he said. Mr. Boucher said the type of agreement reached with China "is highly imprudent and should be avoided." This was an apparent reference to U.S. allegations of Iranian support for international terrorism.

He said high Iranian officials have made statements in support of acquiring nuclear weapons. Mr. Rafsanjani said China had agreed to sell his country the makings of a 300-megawatt reactor for peaceful purposes. On Thursday, Iran's largest anti-government opposition group, the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, said Russia has agreed to sell Iran two 440-megawatt reactors and to provide some 170 technicians to install and operate them.

The State Department earlier criticised Iran for allegedly attempting to smuggle arms to its

(Continued on page 5)

Iraqi official calls for freedom of press as a key priority

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A brother of President Saddam Hussein said in a newspaper commentary Saturday that the government should introduce press freedom as a first step towards political reform. Barzan Al Tikriti, a former intelligence chief and Iraq's envoy to the U.N. in Geneva, said the creation of a multi-party system in Iraq would be impossible without press freedom. "We cannot establish democracy without granting the freedom of the press... otherwise we would be constructing a building without foundations," he added in the commentary published in the government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah. The commentary, which he said represented a personal view, urged the government to end its monopoly on the press by allowing individuals and political groups to publish their own newspapers.

Freedom of the press will be achieved when the government relinquishes its control of the newspapers," Mr. Tikriti said.

Iraq has six newspapers. Al Jumhuriyah, the ruling Baath Party daily Al Thawra and the Defence Ministry newspaper Al Qadisiyah are all state owned. President Saddam's eldest son Uday owns the daily Babel, a sports daily, Al Baath Al Ridai, and two weeklies, Rafidain and Al Rasheed. The government also has a weekly magazine — Alef Ba. "Press freedom materialises when it stays away from influence," Mr. Tikriti said. "The government has no right to prevent a citizen from issuing a newspaper. Every citizen has the right to publish a newspaper," he added. "Press freedom is a right of the people."

Mr. Tikriti's call was the third in less than a week for reform in Iraq. On Monday, Uday called for democratic reforms to thwart what Iraq sees as western attempts to dismember the country. Iraqi intellectuals made a passionate call in Al Jumhuriyah

for reconciliation between the government and its political opponents abroad. President Saddam pledged in his first speech after the Gulf war in February 1991 to introduce a new constitution, multi-party activity and freedom of press. So far, none of these reforms has come into force. Iraq asked the U.N. secretary general Saturday to intervene to ensure that the Gulf crisis sanctions committee treats it fairly. Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf said in a letter to Dr. Boutros Ghali that the committee enforcing the U.N. trade blockade was preventing essential "civilian and humanitarian" materials reaching the Iraqi people. He blamed this on interference from the main Western Gulf war allies: The United States, Britain and France. "Essential civil and humanitarian commodities do not reach the Iraqi people due to the unfair and illogical attitudes often

(Continued on page 5)

Hrawi, Assad said to discuss Syrian pullout from Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — President Elias Hrawi met in Syria Saturday with President Hafez Al Assad, and media reports said the talks dealt with a possible pull-back of Syrian troops from Lebanon's major cities. Mr. Hrawi went straight into a closed-door conference with Mr. Assad upon his arrival by plane from Beirut in northern Syria's port city of Latakia. Mr. Assad's summer residence. The presidential palace here decided to comment on topics of discussion. But Beirut's two leading dailies, the independent Al Nahar and the leftist Al Safir, have said the Syrian redeployment topped the agenda. Syria maintains 40,000 troops in northern, eastern and central Lebanon under a 1976 Arab League mandate to smother the 1975-1990 Lebanese civil war.

That mandate was upheld by a peace accord also brokered by the Arab League in Saudi Arabia's summer resort town of Taif in 1989 to end the civil war. The accord stipulated that Syrian troops should redeploy in East Lebanon's Bekaa Valley two years after political reforms redistributing power equally between Muslims and Christians were ratified. Mr. Hrawi's talks with Assad follow elections that widened the rift between Muslims and Christians. Diplomats said the two presidents also would discuss the formation of a new Lebanese government to replace that of Prime Minister Rashid Al Solh following the polls held over the past month which were boycotted by the majority of Christians. Christian opposition groups

have called the election, the first in Lebanon in 20 years, a ploy by Syria to consolidate its strong grip over Lebanon. Most of the victorious candidates were pro-Syrians. The rest were Muslim fundamentalists. The diplomats said Mr. Hrawi and Mr. Assad would discuss ways of achieving a reconciliation among all Lebanese factions. But officials could not confirm if the two would discuss the withdrawal of the Syrian army from Beirut and the mountains to areas near the Syrian border. Such a pullback would be in accordance with the Taif accord. "The Taif agreement said the Lebanese and Syrian governments should meet by September to plan the redeployment of the troops in Bekaa Valley."

(Continued on page 5)

Rebel Afghan chief holds fire on Kabul airport

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan's dissident Hezb-e-Islami faction said Saturday it had taken control of all approach routes to Kabul but had agreed to peace mediators' requests not to resume attacks on the capital's airport. "Kabul is completely surrounded from all sides," a Hezb official said in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar. But Defence Minister Ahmad Massoud left Kabul to visit northern Afghanistan, and was due back on Saturday or Sunday, raising questions about the effectiveness of the encirclement.

Peace brokers who negotiated a ceasefire that halted three weeks of fighting in Kabul last month persuaded Hezb leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar not to force closure of the airport. "The threat... has been postponed at the request of the mediators council," the Afghan News Agency said. The negotiators said that in

return they would try to convince the government to stop shelling Hezb positions elsewhere, the Hezb official in Peshawar said. The fundamentalist Hezb, nominally a partner in the four-month-old Islamic government, had adopted a conciliatory approach because it did not want to be blamed as negotiators try to silence the guns, the Hezb official said. But he said fighting was still raging in the north between Hezb fighters and formerly communist militia now absorbed into the government army.

Mr. Hekmatyar maintains the government has failed to comply with last month's ceasefire by not ordering the militia, his bitter enemies, out of Kabul. The militia's defection to the Mujahadeen helped topple the communist government, but Hekmatyar brands them traitors. In Kabul, a Ministry of Defence spokesman said a drive to

rid the capital of unauthorised armed men was making progress. Blistering rocket exchanges and infantry offensives between Hezb and government forces devastated Kabul last month and, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross, killed up to 2,000 civilians and injured 9,000. A buffer force of several thousand provincial fighters was in position around Kabul to separate the two sides, the ministry spokesman said. A militia attack on Hezb bases in northern Baghlan province suffered heavy casualties, the Hezb-run Afghan News Agency said. Twenty were killed and 12 were taken prisoner, it said. The Hezb official said the militia were fighting to reopen the northern highway from Kabul to the communists' stronghold in Mazar-e-Sharif.

While traffic apparently still runs to Kabul on highways from the north and east, Hezb fighters

man checkpoints. Last week they held up a U.N. food convoy. Mr. Hekmatyar threatened Thursday to resume rocket and artillery fire on Kabul airport and nearby Bagram air base unless the bombing of his positions halted. The Hezb has accused the militia of using MIG fighters and SU-22 bombers to bomb Shindand air base in western Afghanistan and positions in the north. Kabul airport has reopened slowly to civilian flights since a devastating Hezb rocket bombardment forced its closure for most of last month and inflicted heavy damage.

A Pakistani plane carrying food, medicine and tents for hundreds left homeless by flash floods in northern Afghanistan touched down on Saturday. Earlier this week, an Iranian transport plane flew its first direct relief flight to Kabul since the fighting began.

U.S. again wants U.N. to seize Iraqi assets abroad

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States and its allies have revived a plan to seize Iraq's frozen assets overseas, including oil, and hope to convince Security Council members to adopt a resolution next month.

But diplomats said Friday the proposed draft, which is by no means certain of passage, would be drawn so narrowly that any prior national or commercial claims against Iraq's financial assets would be excluded from the seizure.

This would remove from consideration all Iraqi assets held in Britain and probably those in France and Japan as well.

However, it would permit Washington to seize most of the estimated \$1 billion of Iraqi money held in U.S. banks, where commercial debts do not come close to the total.

Iraq in March 1991 declared it had \$3.7 billion in deposits overseas.

When Washington earlier this year first proposed the idea, financial centres in Europe and elsewhere were aghast, believing that confidence in their banking system would be eroded if assets could be seized by a U.N. vote rather than through normal national procedures.

They also pointed out that Iraq had commercial debts in several countries, including weapons

purchases before the Gulf war, which needed to be adjudicated.

The proposed resolution would also cover Iraqi oil held abroad, most of which is being held in pipelines in Saudi Arabia and Turkey. But some experts questioned whether some of the oil, after being held for two years, would still be useable in its present form.

The purpose of the resolution is to raise money for U.N. inspectors scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and a compensation fund for war victims as called for by post-Gulf war ceasefire resolutions in April 1991.

More pressing is aid for dissident Kurds and Shiites as well as Iraqis elsewhere in the country who have been receiving relief supplies from U.N. aid agencies to offset the Security Council's economic embargo.

The proposals have been revived whenever it appears hopeless that Iraq will abide by Security Council resolutions compelling it to sell limited quantities of oil to pay for the U.N. costs and for humanitarian aid.

Baghdad, suffering from economic sanctions since it invaded Kuwait in August 1990, has refused to sell the oil, saying the conditions imposed by the big powers amounted to an unreasonable stranglehold over its economic life.

Iraq has also accused the United States of putting obstacles in the way of such oil sales because of its ties to oil producer Saudi Arabia.

Conditions for the oil sales include heavy U.N. monitoring of contracts and flows, U.N. supervision of all purchases of humanitarian supplies as well as their distribution. They also include a proviso that almost all oil be shipped through Turkey rather than Iraq's own port on the Gulf.

The distribution of humanitarian aid is particularly offensive to Iraq as relief workers are accompanied by U.N. guards. Iraq has refused to renew an agreement on the guards and aid workers, thereby bringing the relief programme to a near standstill.

In addition to assets in the United States, Iraq's March 1991 list of deposits overseas included \$537.7 million in Britain, \$492 million in Switzerland, \$359 million in Germany, \$214.7 million in Bahrain, \$144 million in Japan, \$160 million in Italy and \$77 million in France.

Smaller amounts of deposits were declared in Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Canada, Sweden, Finland, Yugoslavia, Cyprus, Turkey, Poland, Spain, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Kuwait, Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon, Yemen and Greece.

Djerejian sees 'winds of change' in Middle East

WASHINGTON (USIA) — As the countries of the Middle East respond to the changes wrought by the end of the cold war, the United States will continue to pursue its fundamental goals of peace, security, stability and development in the region, a senior State Department official said Sunday.

Within that overall scheme, Washington's two key goals are to promote a "lasting and comprehensive peace" between Israel and its Arab neighbours, and to create "viable" security arrangements for U.S. friends and allies in the Arabian Peninsula, said Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs.

Addressing the 20th anniversary convention of the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA), Mr. Djerejian described the countries of the Middle East as being "buffeted by the same strong winds of change which have had such a dramatic impact on East-West relations." Those changes forced a general reevaluation of relationships within the region, and opened the door to the historic Middle East peace process now underway, he indicated.

The NAAA, one of the most prominent Arab-American political organisations, lists its main priorities as the strengthening of U.S.-Arab ties and the promotion of peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Djerejian hailed the parties to the Middle East peace talks for having brought "serious, substantive" proposals to the negotiating table. He also praised the Israelis for halting work on many settlements in the occupied lands, ending various incentive programmes that lured new settlers to the occupied territories, cancelling expulsion orders for certain Palestinians and releasing hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.

"What this represents," he told the convention, "is a fundamental shift in Israeli national priorities, away from investment in the occupied territories and toward meeting pressing social, economic and human needs within Israel."

He acknowledged that these

and other steps "taken by the Israelis" are not enough, and added that all countries involved in the peace talks should do more "to keep the process moving." An end to the Arab boycott of Israel would be "an important step" not only for the peace process, but for the United States, as well, Mr. Djerejian said.

Asked to comment on President George Bush's "support in principle" of Israel's request for \$10,000 million in loan guarantees to help absorb new immigrants, Djerejian said that U.S. policy on that matter is driven by twin beliefs: that immigrant absorption is a legitimate humanitarian need, and that Jewish settlements in the occupied territories are an obstacle to peace. He made clear that any loan package approved by the administration would take both principles into account.

In response to a question dealing with the possibility of an independent Palestinian state, Mr. Djerejian pointed out that the peace process provides for a two-phase approach. The current phase deals only with transitional arrangements, and the second with "final status" negotiations.

"The future of the Palestinians is really at the bargaining table today, as we speak," he said. It is through the peace talks that the Palestinian people can improve their current situation and begin the process of self-government "without any prejudice to final status," he added.

Given the progress made thus far, Mr. Djerejian said it is "conceivable" that Palestinian officials will be "in a position to be governing themselves" by May of next year.

Commenting on security in the Gulf, Mr. Djerejian said that "the most immediate and serious threat to the region emanates from the leader Saddam Hussein, whose record of compliance with United Nations resolutions is 'completely unsatisfactory.'"

The recent U.N. declaration of a "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq was made in response to severe human rights violations against

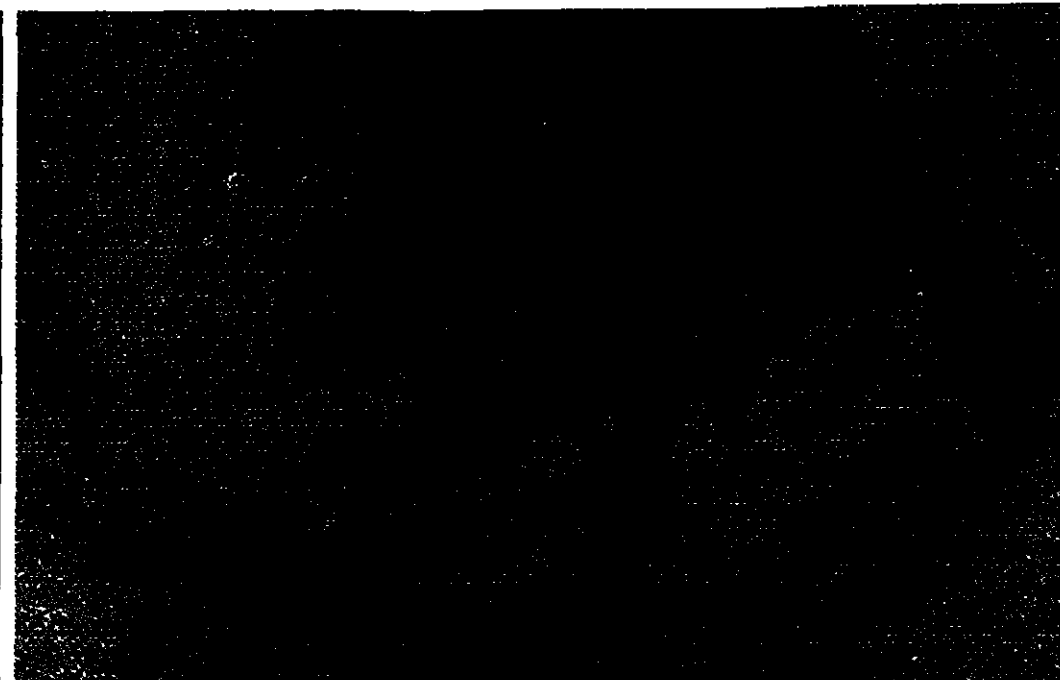
Iraqi civilians in the area, and to an overall record of defiance and intransigence, he said. Mr. Djerejian stressed that the United States and its allies support maintenance of Iraq's territorial integrity, and pointed out that President Bush has repeatedly emphasised that "we seek Iraq's compliance, not its partition."

In other efforts to promote security in the Gulf, the United States has either concluded or renewed agreements with four of the states in the region "and (has) excellent working relationships with all of them," Mr. Djerejian said. He noted that bilateral arrangements are intended to complement security arrangements between the Gulf states themselves, and that the United States does not intend to station troops there.

Mr. Djerejian also discussed U.S. bilateral relations with various other countries in the region. Regarding Syria, Mr. Djerejian landed the "broad-based dialogue" between the two countries, and credited those contacts with Syria's participation in the Gulf war coalition as well as the peace process. Despite the many real differences that continue to exist between the two countries on issues such as human rights and terrorism, Mr. Djerejian said that Washington hopes to continue its dialogue with Damascus.

Turning to Lebanon, Mr. Djerejian described the United States as "clearly disappointed" with the recent elections in that country. The lack of proper preparation and the continued presence of Syrian troops led to low turnout, "widespread reports of irregularities," and results which "do not reflect the full spectrum of the Lebanese body politic," he said.

Discussing the possibility of normalised U.S. relations with Iran, Mr. Djerejian said that such a move would depend on Iran's renouncing its role as a sponsor of "terrorists," eliminating its human rights violations, and abandoning its "destabilising arms build-up," among other matters of concern to Washington.



A Somali mother feeds her child at a 'Save the Children' feeding centre at Belet Hesen, Somalia.

U.N., Red Cross boost food shipments to Somalia

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Another 200,000 tonnes of food will be shipped to Somalia under a new plan announced on Saturday by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The two organisations, in a statement issued in Nairobi, said the shipments would be made over the next four months to help what they estimated were more than three million people in urgent need of food aid.

"To prevent further loss of life and run a more efficient relief organisation in Somalia, it is crucial that WFP and ICRC continue to enhance the cooperation and coordination of all food relief efforts into Somalia," a WFP spokesman said.

The two organisations have been cooperating in the Horn of Africa nation for more than a year. The ICRC has delivered 93,500 tonnes of food aid since last January, and the WFP has sent 50,000 tonnes since May. "The new plan almost doubles the quantity to be shipped," the spokesman said.

Canada has begun relief flights and the United States expanding its own operation in Somalia. Canada plans at first to make

two flights to Mogadishu for the Red Cross and possibly fly to the southern town of Bardera for the WFP, said Canadian air force spokesman John Jensen.

The United States, which is flying to Belet Hesen, Wajir and Bardera, planned to add flights to the town of Hoddur for the WFP, said U.S. air force spokesman Maryellen Jadic.

Belgium will send at least 500 paracommandos to protect famine relief in Somalia when the U.N. gets agreement from local warlords for further troop deployment, Belgium's Foreign Minister Willy Claes said Friday.

"It's a humanitarian operation," Mr. Claes told a news conference in Brussels after ministers formally approved sending a battalion of paratroopers, supported by armoured vehicles and helicopters, to the famine-stricken country.

"Our paratroopers will be volunteers, aren't going there to interfere," Mr. Claes said. But he noted that "in the case of attack, they will have the right to defend themselves."

Mr. Claes said Belgium had received no word from U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, who requested "the troops as Europe's contribution to a 3,500-

strong force, on when the Belgian soldiers were likely to be deployed.

The U.N. Security Council approved the force to stop armed looters stealing up to half of all food aid sent to Somalia.

Donors and aid agencies are shocked by wholesale looting of relief and having to pay gunmen to guard convoys because of the armed anarchy in the capital Mogadishu and elsewhere.

A 60-man advance guard from Britain's 500-strong contribution to the U.N. force is scheduled to reach Somalia next Tuesday.

Swiss and Italian authorities are meanwhile investigating where companies are involved in toxic waste dumping business in Somalia, an official said Friday.

The top United Nations environmental official, Mustafa Tolba, has claimed that Somalia's self-proclaimed health minister gave permission to Swiss and Italian companies to dump toxic waste in the starving country.

Hans-Peter Fahrni, spokesman of Switzerland's federal Environmental Protection Authority, said his office was awaiting U.N. documents detailing the charges. Swiss criminal charges could then be filed, he said.

Salvage teams hope to haul silver fortune from deep sea

MUSCAT (AP) — Start with \$300 million in silver ingots and coins minted for an Arabian king. Put them on an American military ship with a mission so secret that the crew is not told about the stash in the cargo holds.

Add three German torpedoes plus water 2.5 kilometres deep. Toss in some sharks.

This isn't the plot for the next adventure of Indiana Jones but the basic ingredients of a real-life attempt to haul a sunken fortune out of a very deep sea.

Omani and French teams are expected to commence work in November on salvaging the treasure from the wreck of the John Barry, a U.S. military cargo ship that went down on Aug. 28, 1944.

"A special strong room was built into the bottom of the ship's No. 2 hold ... to safeguard the precious cargo," said Jamal Abu Dawood, the owner of a Saudi diving company that has worked near the wreckage.

It lies 190 kilometres north of Yemen's Socotra Island and 200 kilometres off the Omani city of Salalah.

The John Barry was cut in half by the U-boat attack, but the cargo is believed to be intact.

"The wreck is in a very good state of preservation, with ropes still hanging over the ship's

sides," said Mr. Abu Dawood.

Raising it has become the obsession of Sheikh Ahmad Farid Al Anasi, chairman of the Desert Line Co. in the Omani capital Muscat and a direct descendant of the royal family that once ruled the Hadramaut region in Yemen.

His Ocean Group, a consortium of Omani businessmen, is believed to have spent \$7 million thus far to get the wreck surveyed and to plan the raising operation.

The John Barry Co., formed by a group of American businessmen, obtained the rights to cargo through the U.S. government's maritime administration in 1989.

The U.S. government retained rights to the ship by never issuing a certificate of abandonment.

The John Barry Co. bought the rights for more than \$50,000 plus 10 per cent of the value of the salvaged cargo. That agreement remains in effect, although the Ocean Group bought out the John Barry Co. for an undisclosed sum.

The holds should contain 60 million troy ounces of silver, the equivalent of roughly one-third of the 200 million ounces of silver sold annually on the international bullion market.

The ship was named after the first U.S. naval officer to capture a British warship during the 1776 war of independence.

UNRWA appeals for funds

VIENNA (I.T.) — United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has called on donor nations to grant it \$20 million in special funds to finance services it offers to Palestinian refugees in the Middle East.

In a meeting with permanent missions to the United Nations in Vienna and UNRWA's Advisory Commission last week, UNRWA Commissioner-General Iltis Turkmen said the agency is still short of funds to carry out operations which could improve the quality of life for Palestinian refugees.

Mr. Turkmen said only \$6.7 million had been received in response to an appeal for \$25 million which he made in November last year and reiterated in April.

"Important activities are on hold until this funding can be assured," he said.

UNRWA still requires \$5 million for urgently needed school and health services and for environmental projects, Mr. Turkmen told the meeting.

MIDDLE EAST NEW IN BRIEF

Qadhafi upsets Tunisia with merger remarks

TUNIS (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has upset neighbouring Tunisia, until recently one of his few friends, by saying the country was doomed to unite with either Libya or the east or Algeria to the west. The Tunisian press has turned on Colonel Qadhafi, who was once immune from criticism in public, and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali made a cryptic riposte in a speech Tuesday. Diplomatic sources said Said Ben Mustapha, a junior Foreign Affairs minister, brought up Tunisia's displeasure at a meeting with Libyan ambassador Abdelati Al Obeidi Thursday. In several speeches over the past few weeks Col. Qadhafi has predicted that Tunisia would eventually be so short of water that it would have to merge with one of its two much larger neighbours. On Tuesday Mr. Ben Ali referred to "surprising remarks recently made about us by certain parties and their repeated statements insulting to Tunisia and Tunisians." The remarks were "completely without justification, unless it is part of a scheme to divert attention from the reality (of those who made them)," Mr. Ben Ali added. The ruling party newspaper Al Horriyah said Col. Qadhafi had led his country astray and to a dead end and was now trying to distract Libyans from their disastrous plight. Libya is seriously isolated, physically and politically, because it refuses to hand over two men suspected of blowing up an American airliner in 1988. A U.N. ban on flights to and from the country has been in force since April. Al Sharq, a newspaper close to the government, said: "Our hearts are with our brothers, the Libyan people. For their sake we hope that the evil predicament they are in will disappear with the disappearance of the cause."

Vote for those who pray, says Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti authorities have told voters to cast 5 general election ballots only for candidates who pray. The Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs said in a ruling published by newspapers over the weekend that voters were forbidden to plunk for candidates who did not pray or attend Friday prayers. It said a voter had to choose a candidate who would stand up for his rights and so a Muslim had to be careful to pick the best. The ministry reaffirmed that it was forbidden for voters to accept money, gifts or any other favour from candidates to vote for them. It also said voters should not choose candidates who "buy" or attempt to buy votes. Several candidates have complained publicly about so-called "vote-buying" — payment or influence-peddling to win votes. "Vote-buying" is illegal. A total of 303 candidates have registered to contest 50 seats in Kuwait's all-male national assembly elections.

5 killed, 5 wounded in Egypt land feud

ASSIUT, Egypt (R) — Five people were shot dead and five seriously wounded when an Egyptian family took revenge for the killing of two of its members 36 years ago, security sources said Saturday. Eight members of the Harasid family ambushed a tractor carrying 10 members of the Maazel family Friday and raked it with machinegun fire at a village in Assiut province, 325 kilometres south of Cairo. The attackers escaped. The Maazel were blamed for the death of two Harasids in a dispute over farmland in 1956.

OIC adopts new strategies

ISTANBUL (AP) — President Turgut Ozal said Friday that new strategies for economic cooperation among member states of an Islamic conference here were adopted and steps were taken for their implementation. In his closing remarks, Mr. Ozal told delegates at the eighth meeting of the committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), that the decision to have the private sector assume a greater role was a new strategy well received. He also pointed out the importance of the organisation "in exchanging opinions" in the economic field. Cooperation among member states, he said, "will enable the development of our countries by bringing together the manpower, technology and economic sources we each separately own." Tansu Ciller, Turkey's state minister for economy, said the organisation had decided to extend humanitarian aid to the peoples of Palestine, Lebanon, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia and Afghanistan. Speaking after Mr. Ozal, Ms. Ciller said the new strategies included the recognition of a larger role to the private sector, securing structural changes in the economies of member states through liberalisation and helping them to become more active. She also said the decision was reached for cooperation under the COMCEC umbrella in the sectors of industry, agriculture, communication and energy. Speaking for the Asian group of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Pakistan's environment and town planning minister, Anwar Saifullah Khan, said Turkey had been helpful to Muslim countries through its assistance in their development in the economic, commercial and social sectors. He did not elaborate.

Don't badmouth mullahs, Ayatollah warns Iranians

NICOSIA (R) — Iranians risk losing the grace of God if they bad-mouth the Muslim clergy and blame them for their day-to-day problems, a senior Ayatollah said on Friday. "Some ordinary people say things about them (clergy) that God does not like," Ayatollah Abdolkarim Mousavi Ardebili, a former chief justice, told worshippers in Tehran. "Say someone goes to the bakery and is served a bit late, or goes to buy a chicken and is charged 500 rials too much. Now, for him to come and say this regime is such-and-such and the mullahs are so-and-so — God will take back his blessings from man." He said in a Friday prayers sermon broadcast on Tehran Radio. His remarks referred to a point rarely acknowledged by Iranian leaders — that many Iranians regard the mullahs, who came to power in the Islamic revolution of 1979, as a self-serving group responsible for much of the country's current problems. Rejecting "slanders and calumnies" against mullahs, Ayatollah Ardebili said they had offered many "martyrs" for the revolution and clerics in theological schools led simple lives. "Granted that five or 10 among us may say, but to question the entire clergy or to make such uncalculated remarks is not to God's liking," he said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Michael Vaillant
17:55 Des Chiffres et des lettres
18:15 La Chance Aux Chansons
19:00 News French
19:15 News Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Coach
21:10 Land of Birds
22:00 News in English
22:20 Midnight Caller

PRAYER TIMES

06:55 Fajr
06:13 (Sunrise) Duha
12:55 Dhuhr
16:04 Asr
19:51 Maghrib
20:00 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifish Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Joseph Imsh 770560
Dr. Saad Al 770560
Dr. Khalid Mar 770560
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070
Firas pharmacy 661912
Petrov pharmacy 776336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nabouk pharmacy 625672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeiss pharmacy 637660

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 17/28
Aqaba 23/34
Dibers 16/32
Jordan Valley 22/35

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 771228
Blood Bank 771221
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs 661101
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-33200

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Joseph Imsh 770560
Dr. Saad Al 770560
Dr. Khalid Mar 770560
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070
Firas pharmacy 661912
Petrov pharmacy 776336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nabouk pharmacy 625672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeiss pharmacy 637660

AMMAN:
Dr. Ali Al Samman 770560
Dr. Ali Shams 770560
ZARQA:
Dr. Alwan Al Haddad 985350
Khalid pharmacy 985417

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 643632
Malha, J. Amman 641646
Palestine, Shamsi 641714
Sheikh Hospital 691331
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muham Hospital 677277
The Islamic, Abdull 661277
Al-Ahli, Abdull 661646
Rafiah, Al-Mulay 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 771126
Army, Mar 891617/15
Queen Alia Hospital 6024039
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital 09983323
Princess Beama Hospital 691331
Qusq Catholic Hospital 02722725
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital 02747100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03134111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 09332005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
18:00 Doha (RU)
18:00 Jeddah (RU)
18:10 Larnaca (RU)
18:15 Athens (RU)
18:30 Damascus (RU)
18:35 Madrid, Malta (RU)
18:50 Doha, Bahrain (RU)
17:00 Amsterdam (RU)
17:05 New York, Amsterdam (RU)
18:30 Brussels, Paris (RU)
18:35 Ankara, Istanbul (RU)
19:25 Athens (RU)
19:30 Vienna (RU)
21:30 Rome (RU)
21:30 Frankfurt, Geneva (RU)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:00 Madrid (RU)
05:00 Brussels (RU)
05:10 Athens (RU)
05:15 Damascus (RU)
05:30 Jeddah (RU)
05:35 Athens (RU)
05:40 Larnaca (RU)
05:45 Doha (RU)
05:50 Vienna (RU)
05:55 Ankara, Istanbul (RU)
06:00 Amsterdam, New York (RU)
06:05 Athens (RU)
06:10 New York, Amsterdam (RU)
06:15 Brussels, Paris (RU)
06:20 Doha, Bahrain (RU)
06:25 Ankara, Istanbul (RU)
06:30 Athens (RU)
06:35 Vienna (RU)
06:40 Rome (RU)
06:45 Frankfurt, Geneva (RU)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:30 Beirut (ME)
12:30 Moscow (SU)
14:00 Larnaca (CY)
20:30 Beirut (ME)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

03:00 Beirut (ME)
10:00 Beirut, Rome (AZ)
13:00 Doha, Bahrain (GF)
17:05 Moscow (SU)
21:30 Larnaca (CY)
21:30 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upcoming price in Jds per kg.
Apples (red) 200/450
Bananas (Mukannar) 450/400
Bananas 400/330
Cabbage 120/80
Carrots 450/350
Cauliflower 150/100
Cucumbers (large) 140/80
Cucumbers (small) 300/250
Eggplant 90/30
Garlic 600/500
Lemon 180/180
Marrow (large) 360/300
Marrow (small) 360/300
Onion (dry) 170/120
Pepper (big) 150/100
Pepper (small) 300/250
Potato 100/500
Fig 400/300
Grape 200/220
Black Grapes 300/450
Green Grapes 200/220

Government plans 'comprehensive assessment' of Royal Jordanian

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government has ordered a "comprehensive evaluation" of the national carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ), as the first step towards exercising its options towards privatising the airline, informed officials said Saturday.

A government-appointed committee has already received several offers from international consulting and financing agencies to conduct the evaluation process, which will not be limited to the assets and liabilities of the airline but will include its overall structure, traffic rights, market value and goodwill, the officials said.

The committee, chaired by the minister of transport and including the chief executive officer of the airline, is studying the offers and will soon award the contract, according to the officials.

"It is the first concrete step in the process of privatising the airline," said one of the officials. "It is difficult to define a timeframe for further steps since a lot depends on the outcome of the evaluation," he said.

According to the official and other sources, the move towards an overall assessment of the airline's status was prompted by a report submitted by auditors Arthur Anderson, an

international firm which has been studying the affairs of the carrier. The auditors have already completed two phases of their scrutiny of RJ.

In two reports they submitted to the government, the auditors presented their preliminary findings as well as possible options to streamline the finances of the airline, whose total foreign and local debts are believed to be around JD270 million, according to the source. The third and final report of the auditors will include definite recommendations, the source added.

"The current examination of the airline is mostly an auditing process and scrutiny," said the source. "But an overall evaluation — as ordered now — should go beyond counting dollars and cents and include an assessment of the airline not only as the national carrier but also as an international institution built over the years with dedicated efforts by its employees," the source added.

"This is the only way to come up with an accurate picture of the airline and help the process of restructuring it," added the source. "Anything short of that, like looking at it as a means to contribute to addressing shortcomings in other spheres of the national economy, is not the right approach and will only complicate things."

"The reality has to be accepted," said the source. "The airline has huge debts accumulated over the years. A mechanism has to be found to address the debts, to ensure that the situation

does not recur, and to put the airline back on the track. The approach has to be comprehensive," the source said.

Over 60 per cent of RJ's debts are owed to banks and other commercial institutions abroad and payable in dollars. Local creditors include the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, the Social Security Corporation and the Housing Bank.

According to the sources, the auditors have suggested that the JD22 million capital of the airline is too small when compared with its operations and that it be raised to make the company compatible. The most likely option the government would exercise in the privatisation process is to convert the now wholly-state-owned carrier to a public shareholding company, with the government and its various agencies continuing to own the equity during an interim period after which it would be completely privatised, with or without government owning and shares.

"Some of the local creditors — which are government-controlled anyway — will be given stakes in the new entity as settlement of their dues," said one official.

The heavy burden of the debts is seen by economic experts as the biggest problem facing the airline. Most agree that the carrier is making net operational profits but the cost of servicing the debts not only wipes out the profits but also pushes it deeper into the red.

The airline's troubles are mostly attributed to what experts describe as an over-ambitious expansion programme pursued during the oil boom years in terms of operations, facilities and fleet strength.

In defence, RJ officials argue that such descriptions can be given to the airline only when seen in the context of a national carrier flying to limited destinations in the region. They point out that RJ had crossed the threshold of being a limited regional airline as far back as the early 80s and was competing with international giants such as United, Pan-American and European carriers on long-distance flights such as New York to Singapore and Chicago to Bangkok.

In addition, they say, RJ's training centres, aircraft maintenance workshops, simulators and other facilities make the airline stand out among national carriers in the region.

"A price had to be paid for bringing out the airline into the international and regional scene, and part of the debt that it has incurred was this price," said one RJ official.

The airline, which now has one of the biggest networks among regional airlines, flies to most Arab capitals, including the Arab Maghreb, most of Europe, New York and Montreal in North America, and India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia in the Far East.

In 1989, the airline suspended its flights to Chicago and Los Angeles among other cost-cutting measures, which, according to RJ sources, produced a turnaround in the operational costs and helped it manage through one of its most critical periods in its history.

"The airline does not 'own' any of the planes that it is operating now but has leased them for 12 years at the end of which the aircraft become RJ property."

GUVS to launch fund-raising campaign

AMMAN (J.T.) — Up to 10,600 students from government schools, community colleges and universities will march in various parts of Jordan in the first week of October to collect donations for Al Amal Cancer Centre, being set up at the Jordan University Hospital.

The announcement was made by the executive president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Al Khatib, who is also chairman of the National Committee entrusted with carrying out the project.

Dr. Khatib said the intensive door-to-door campaign will take place between Oct. 2 and 7 in all towns of Jordan to collect contributions for what he called a "vital project."

Final arrangements have been made for the campaign and most of the students who will take part in the campaign will come from Ministry of Education schools, said Dr. Khatib in a statement Saturday.

Dr. Khatib said that there will be a sponsored march to start at the Sports City in Amman also in the course of raising funds for the JD 14 million centre, which will be treating needy cancer patients free of charge.

He said radio and television will air programmes during the campaign encouraging the public to support the project.

Last month, Dr. Khatib issued an appeal to the public to offer donations, saying that the centre's building is now ready but huge funds are needed to equip it.

He said that the centre takes priority on the list of GUVS various programmes in view of the growing number of cancer patients in Jordan.

The national committee warned last month that the number of cancer cases in the Kingdom was increasing each year. The number of new cancer cases registered in 1991 was 1214, and should the trend continue, there will be an increase of up to 70 cancer cases in Jordan for every 100,000 inhabitants annually.

The centre will include an outpatient clinic for radiation treatment, an operation room, an X-ray room for biopsy examination, an ultra sound examination room, and offices for specialists.

Meeting discusses means of upgrading postal services in Arab World

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from 10 Arab countries gathered in Amman Saturday for a two-week seminar on planning in postal services, organised by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in cooperation with the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.

Participants are expected to discuss problems facing postal services in the Arab states, means for promoting and modernising these services, postal management and postal planning systems.

Addressing the opening session, Minister of Post and Telecommunications Jamal Sarairoh said "Jordan considers itself part of a United Arab postal bloc seeking to enhance and expand the postal network and services on a continuous basis."

He said Jordan is also giving due attention to the quality of



Jamal Sarairoh

postal services and has embarked on "new comprehensive plan for modernisation, taking into consideration the needs of the local and Arab markets."

Mr. Sarairoh said Jordanian postal authorities are expanding traditional services they offer to the extent that Jordan is now linked to almost all nations which

adopt the UPU, approved postal system.

"Jordan attaches great importance to decisions taken by the Arab ministers of telecommunications in matters related to strengthening postal services among Arab countries and inter-Arab agreements," said Mr. Sarairoh, thanking the UPU for its support to help the Arab countries upgrade their postal services.

Mr. Omar Amer Mitwally, UPU representative at the meeting, read out an address by the UPU director general in which he referred to the main aims of the organisation as adopted at the 1989 Washington meeting.

He said these objectives define measures to be taken by UPU member nations to improve postal services, particularly in developing nations.

Saudis keep ban on vegetables

AMMAN (R) — Saudi Arabia's three-week-old ban on Jordanian produce has dumped around 500 tonnes of vegetables meant for sale in the Gulf on local markets each day, diplomats and officials said Saturday.

Saudi Arabia claims the vegetables are contaminated by pesticides and dirty water. Amman denies the charges, which, according to the Saudis, are based on laboratory tests.

"For the time being, nothing has changed (on the imports)," a Saudi embassy source told Reuters. He added that contacts between the two countries were under way to settle the dispute.

Saudi Arabia, which until the Gulf crisis imported around 60 per cent of Jordan's annual agricultural exports of some 500,000 tonnes, told Jordan it would only resume imports if Amman guaranteed that the produce was

not contaminated by sewage water and pesticides.

A Jordanian official said the government had sent to Riyadh its own tests, showing random samples were free of contaminants. Jordan was awaiting a Saudi response, said Salem Al Lawzi, head of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation.

Officials say about 500 tonnes a day of tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants and other vegetables, which would have been exported to Saudi Arabia, were being sold in local markets, depressing prices. The wholesale price of a kilo of cucumbers fell to 250 fils on Saturday from 310 fils three weeks ago.

Saudi and Jordanian officials discount political motivations behind the ban since the two countries recently began to improve relations after they deteriorated during the Gulf crisis.

MECC organises symposium

AMMAN (J.T.) — A symposium aimed at defining educational, social and health requirements for rehabilitating children who suffered from armed conflicts in the region will open in Amman Tuesday.

The meeting, held under the title, "Children of War: Where To," hopes to spread awareness among non-governmental organisations in the region about the

impact of the Middle East wars on children. It will also discuss means of improving the quality of life for children of the region and call on world governments to implement the U.N.-sponsored Rights of the Child Convention.

The meeting, which is organised by the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), will be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Bulgaria to raise imports of Jordanian phosphate

AMMAN (J.T.) — Bulgaria has agreed to raise from 60,000 to 150,000 tonnes the amount of phosphates it imports from the Kingdom annually, in a bid to help adjust the balance of trade between the two countries, which is in favour of Bulgaria.

The announcement was made by Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf upon return to Amman from a three-day visit to Sofia in which he held trade talks with Bulgarian officials.

Mr. Saqqaf said Jordan was seeking to buy its meat from countries that import Jordanian phosphate, fertilisers and potash, saying that the Kingdom does not accept a situation whereby the trade balance between Sofia and Amman remains in favour of Bulgaria.

Mr. Saqqaf said he demanded that Bulgaria export high quality to Jordan, especially during the holy month of Ramadan, and adhere to the internationally recognised specifications.

During the visit, Mr. Saqqaf, who was accompanied by a four-member delegation held talks with the country's ministers of industry, trade and agriculture to discuss bilateral trade.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

Exhibitions

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artists Ghassan Gha'eb and Walid Rashid at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "A Dialogue in Expression" — works on paper by Naz Ikramallah, Nabila Hilmi and Dodi Tabaa at the National Gallery, Jabel Lweideh Park.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Exploring Science" at Al Hussein Vocational School in Karak.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Horizon" by Artist Qasem Al Samir and Najah Al Rahl' at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artist Ali Al M'amar at Alla Art Gallery.

Symposium

- ★ Symposium entitled "Pollution Explosion in Jordan" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 4:30 p.m.

Delegations leave for U.S. to attend talks on water

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian and Palestinian delegations to the meeting of the working group on water within the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process left Amman for Washington Saturday.

The meeting, which opens in the American capital Tuesday, is expected to lay down the foundation for a solution to the water problems in the region after achieving a just and durable peace based on international legitimacy and the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The Washington meeting will be a follow-up to an inconclusive

meeting held in Vienna last May during which Israel rejected Arab demands.

The Arab parties will submit a detailed report about the surface and underground water resources that have been exploited by Israel during the occupation period which started in 1967 and the negative results of such practices.

The Arab parties will demand that Israel pay compensation for exploiting Arab water before agreeing with the Jewish state on new arrangements for the distribution of water resources that would end Israel's current domination on these resources.

unisat UNITED SATELLITES CO.

ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF ITS NEW OFFICES AND ITS SPECTACULARLY EQUIPPED SATELLITE SHOW ROOM

You are invited to watch the world through the latest in the state of the art American Satellite Reception Equipment at the specially equipped Satellite Show Room where UNISAT has installed a number of advanced Satellite Stations of various sizes and capabilities.

AUTHORISED DISTRIBUTORS JORDAN - SYRIA - YEMEN

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTRONIC WIRE
& CABLE CO.

SATELLITE CABLES

ECHO STAR

SATELLITE RECEIVERS

KTI

SATELLITE ANTENNAS

DLS

SATELLITE CONNECTORS

ORBITRON

SATELLITE ANTENNAS

California Amplifier

SATELLITE LNB'S

UNITED SATELLITES CO.
SHMEISANI - AL - HAMRA ST., TEL. 683193 / 683194
FAX 683211, P.O. BOX 2934, AMMAN JORDAN

unisat

The World at Your Fingertips



Ready for immediate delivery and installation.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
الصحف الجردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالانجليزية من المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Weapons for votes: Principle is wrong

WITH ONLY eight weeks to go before the U.S. presidential elections, the two contenders, President George Bush and Democratic challenger Bill Clinton, are deploying all sorts of electioneering tactics to win desperately needed votes. The latest was Bush's attempt to compare his bid for reelection with former President Harry Truman's triumph in the 1948 presidential elections in spite of the fact that Truman was a Democrat and Bush a Republican. Incongruous as that play may have been, it remained benign in comparison with Bush's other recent effort to beef up the staggering U.S. economy by selling the latest vintage of American air power to Taiwan as well as its state-of-the-art communication satellites to its arch enemy China. Bush's desperate efforts to generate more jobs in the employment market by vying arms right, left and centre bedevils the sincerity of Washington to make the world a safer place to live in. There must be a limit to expediency in the struggle to win an election in the most powerful democratic country on earth. The example of Bush serves as a bad example for the other fledgling democracies in the world which still look to the West for guidance in their bid to enter the democratic club. Bush might have succeeded more to improve employment opportunities in his country had he started to transform military industries into other more profitable enterprises that are not dependent on continued conflicts in the international arena. As long as the backbone of the U.S. industry is heavily oriented towards armament, Washington will continue to exploit tension and conflicts around the world to promote the sale of its military hardware. This in turn could give cause to the conviction that the U.S. has a vested interest in the instigation and fuelling of armed conflicts in the world simply for the purpose of keeping its armament industries in operation. It is doubtful that the few thousand job opportunities that could be created by the selling of U.S. F-16s to Taiwan or even Saudi Arabia would really help out President Bush in his bid for reelection in November. Whatever gains he might realise by such job promotion policies could be more than offset by the damage to his and his country's credibility as a man and a nation for peace and stability.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Saturday called on the European Community to refrain from offering Israel an award in exchange for nothing, and reminded the community members that Israel has not yet taken a single step towards ending the Middle East conflict. The paper referred in particular to the talks which the Israeli foreign minister held in Paris and the subsequent reports that Israel was trying to end the Arab countries' boycott of Israel through European pressure. It said that U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 are still unimplemented, Palestinian people's rights are not recognised and peace is not yet established. There is nothing to warrant an end to the Arab boycott of Israel and there is nothing in what Israel is doing that can justify further Arab concessions, the paper stressed. It said that the European Community should undertake steps to promote its own role in forcing Israel to implement U.N. resolutions so that peace can be achieved and the boycott can end. It is indeed to be recalled here that it was Israel which had opposed any European Community's role aimed at ending the Arab-Israeli conflict, and it is strange to see Israel trying to enlist Europe's help in pressuring the Arabs into taking such impossible step, said the daily. In the light of Israel's continued intransigence at the peace talks and its total denial of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland, one can only hope said the paper, that the European countries will adopt a realistic stand and refrain from offering any rewards or free service to Israel until it complies with the requirements of the international legitimacy.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily called attention to the chronic transport problem in Zarqa, the second largest city in Jordan, noting that as the population continues to grow, nothing is being done in the transportation sector to cater to the people's increasing transport needs. Nazih said that the city of Zarqa has only 26 taxi offices, compared to Amman's 150, and this is making it extremely difficult for Zarqa citizens to move above not only within their own city but also between Zarqa and the neighbouring towns. The nearly three quarter of a million population of Zarqa can be seen standing in long lines for hours, under the burning sun in the summer and the onslaught of cold and rain in the winter, waiting for some means of transportation or another to take them to work or other places, the writer said. He said that apart from the lucky citizens who own their cars, the majority of the population continues to suffer. The writer called on the concerned transport and traffic authorities to increase the number of taxi offices to promote the transportation services and ease the suffering of the people.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Unprecedented construction boom

Since May 1991, just two months after the Gulf war, the construction activity boomed in Jordan and intensified in the spring of 1992. The boom is still going on unabated, but until when?

Currently, some 1,500 building permits are being issued each month, covering around half a million square metres. The annual rate is expected to top six million square metres of building, creating around 50 thousand new housing units, mostly apartments.

The volume of construction in progress is almost double the rate which prevailed during the period 1989-1991, and three times the volume experienced during the period 1985-1988.

The cost of this construction may exceed one billion Jordanian dinar (\$1.5 billion), roughly one third of the annual gross domestic product (GDP).

However, this huge investment is not creating a burden on the domestic savings, which cannot reach half that much, nor is it financed by the banking system. As a matter of fact, construction financing from mid 1991 to mid 1992 did not grow by more than a mere JD 43 million, less than 5 per cent of the estimated cost of the total investment.

It is obvious, therefore, that the bulk of construction is being financed by personal savings and by an incoming flow of foreign exchange. The residents and the returnees from Kuwait are drawing on their dollar deposits abroad. In fact we are now in the middle of a massive capital flight in reverse.

The huge investment in construction will definitely raise the imports beyond the levels projected by the economic adjustment programme, but it is in no way depleting the country's reserves.

On the contrary, building a house is equal to calling back capital from abroad, partially to finance more imports, and partially to support the reserves. The Jordanian economy is not getting the

investment only, but the funding as well.

True, the flow of capital from abroad does not show up in the current account of the balance of payments, but it is inflating the errors and omissions item, which is the secret name for the informal flow of funds.

Many observers fear that we are building too much and, accordingly, may be heading towards a crisis of excess supply of housing. This may happen if the boom continues at the same rate all through 1993. In fact Jordan needs around 25 thousand housing units a year to cope with the natural growth of the population at 3.4 per cent per annum. However, the extra and one time demand of the returnees, and many Iraqi families which may not stay for more than months, must be taken into account. What is happening now was a response to the signals of the market. The market may not fail to issue the opposite signals in case the construction drive exceeded the real needs.

Even if we reach a stage when some surplus in housing may become evident, the rapid population growth will catch up with it in a short period of time.

Investment in real estate is of course good for investors who don't know better or cannot invest in more productive, though more risky, ventures. The return on real estate is rather low, perhaps 5 per cent as a rent, but there are capital gains as well. Real estate is known to be a hedge against inflation, and to be a low-risk investment.

In general, we do not need to worry about shortages and surpluses in the housing sector. The sector is market-oriented. It is almost fully conducted by the private sector. Building apartments for sale is an organised industry, run by people who are well-informed and very careful not to overproduce houses.

Finally, the construction boom may push real economic growth in Jordan in 1992 to a high level, such as 7.5 per cent, but this high rate is not sustainable in the longer run.

A 6th century invasion stokes a 20th century calamity

By Thomas Butler

WASHINGTON — Abuse of cultural memory — the manipulation of long-invalued past grievances to obtain present-day advantage — rules the day in the war-torn lands of Yugoslavia. Deliberate misreadings and misrepresentations of history are destroying the future in the Balkans.

The fundamental cause of Yugoslavia's calamity is not just recent history, such as the infamous genocide by Croats against the Jasenovac concentration camp during World War II. Nor is the cause rooted solely in the more distant chronicle of the Ottoman rule. Today's horrors are woven from strands of the entire tapestry of history since the 6th century Slavic invasion of the Balkans, with the subsequent division of Croats and Serbs between Catholicism and Orthodoxy and eventually Islam.

All these elements play a role in the minds of those destroying Bosnia. They are sick from history — from half-truths and ethnic prejudices passed from one generation to the next, through religion, political demagoguery, inflammatory tracts and, even, through abuse of folk song and tales. More recently, the books of unscrupulous writers and the deliberately inaccurate speeches of unprincipled leaders have further contaminated the atmosphere.

Two years ago, at an international conference in Boston on cultural memory, I argued with an American scholar about the causes of the unfolding Yugoslav crisis. She felt that everything was traceable to 1941 and the Croatian killing of 600,000 Serbs, Jews and gypsies at the concentration camp of Jasenovac. (Many of these Serbs were from the Krajina area of Croatia, which is now trying to merge with Serbia.) But I felt that the roots of the current conflict between Croats and Serbs ran much deeper, at least as far back as the schism between the Catholic and Orthodox Churches in 1054 A.D.

It appears we were both right. She, in that the immediate cause of the fighting between Serbs and Croats in Croatia was Serbian fear of another Jasenovac. When Franjo Tudjman, author of a book stating that Serbian losses were only one-tenth what they claimed, became president of Croatia, Serbs in Croatia saw this as a sign that they were not to expect fair and unbiased treatment in the new state. Mr. Tudjman did not offer them concrete guarantees that would have allayed their worries.

Although it was the Serbs in Krajina who provoked the outbreak of hostilities, over the long run the fighting between Serbs and Croats in Croatia and Slavonia has been fueled by culturally derived feelings of "otherness" between Orthodox Serbs and Catholic Croats.

Orthodox-Catholic prejudice is a powerful force. A few years ago, I visited the Orthodox monastery of Iviron on Mount Athos in Greece. While I was attending the early morning liturgy, a monk approached and asked whether I was Orthodox or Catholic. When I replied "Catholic," he told me to "go outside and pray."

The Greek Orthodox Church, like Rome, has a long memory. In the young monk's mind, I was excommunicated. The schism in 1054 A.D. and the plundering of Constantinople in 1204 A.D. by the Fourth Crusade are alive in the Orthodox mind of today and continue to affect Orthodox-Catholic relations, including those between Serbs and Croats. This is not to say that Serbs feel justified in shelling Dubrovnik because they believe its inhabitants are schismatics, but rather that they are affected in their relations with the "Latin" by negative feelings of "otherness," the residue of doctrinal disputes of long ago. The sense of "otherness" is further exacerbated by the fact that the two peoples were ruled by different and opposing empires: The Croats by the Austro-Hungarian empire and the Serbs by the Ottoman.

As for Croatian and Serbian relations with Bosnia's Muslim population (who are actually Slavs), no one will deny that the Croats have the more harmonious dealings with their Islamic brethren. This may be because they see the Muslims as heretics who can be saved through baptism. In fact, Mr. Tudjman was photographed a year ago, smiling benignly at the baptism of a group of Muslim children. This drove Bosnia's Muslim president, Alija Izetbegovic, into such a frenzy that he made a short-lived treaty with his arch-enemy, Serbia.

Serbs, on the other hand, take a different stance towards Muslims: They see them as traitors, as well as heretics. Scratch a Muslim, they believe, and you have a Serb whose ancestor went over to the Ottoman side four or five hundred years ago in order to keep his land.

In the Bosnian case, the situation is further complicated by the

tury historians.

The Serbian "purification" of Bosnian villages of Muslim inhabitants reminds me of a similar action, described by the 19th century Montenegrin poet Njegoš in his "Mountain Wreath." He sings of the events leading up to an early 18th-century extermination of Muslims in Montenegro, directed by Danilo, the Orthodox prince bishop of Montenegro, and motivated by fear of contamination from within. The same paranoia may be found in Serbia today.

Even 20 years ago such views were common. My Belgrade landlady told me then that the Albanians (Shiptars), who are mainly Muslim, were lighting bonfires at night on the hills around the city, signaling to their high birth rate, warning that they would inundate the Serbs, as they have done in Kosovo, the "holy ground" of the Serbian medieval empire.

In recent years, I heard worried talk of how Islamic fundamentalism was sweeping Bosnia and of Saudi money being used to rebuild mosques and Muslim schools. I used to smile at such stories as indicative of excessive Serbian anxiety. But I was wrong. Obviously, Serbian extremists played on fears of a revived Islamic state in Bosnia as a way to spur their savage war.

This oppressive preoccupation with Muslims — Albanians in particular — is vividly illustrated in the war diary of a Serbian reservist from Valjevo, named Alexander Jasovic, published in a Belgrade journal this year. Mr. Jasovic served as a medic in the Serbian ranks in the fighting for Vukovar in Croatia in 1991. While his battery was shelling the Croats in the northeast, he recounts in his diary, he was preoccupied with fears about Kosovo

Fear of encirclement by all-powerful

enemies grips the medic. Not once does Mr. Jasovic ask himself whether his worries are justified by the facts. Elsewhere he borrows an apocalyptic line from Njegoš: "Let there be what there cannot be!" i.e., Serbia may lose these ancient provinces, but not without a fight to the end. Such thinking is at the heart of Serbian aggression and territorial aggrandisement. Will Kosovo and Macedonia be next on the list for "purification" and "ethnic cleansing"?

There any way out of the cycle of death and destruction in the Balkans? There may be, but the failure of diplomatic efforts has shown that without more active U.S. participation, nothing will happen. Western Europe's leaders seem incapable of seeing that they should act forcefully — with military power, if needed — to force a ceasefire.

The U.S. offer of air and naval support for the U.N. relief efforts is a first step, but even if this should bring about a ceasefire, we shall have to prepare ourselves to play a very strong role in the overall negotiations. Several European powers — Britain, Germany, Italy and Turkey — seem immobilised, perhaps by their own past history of invasion or involvement in the Balkans.

If there is ever to be a healing, it may be that it can only begin with the establishment of a unique, continuing conference of Serbian, Croatian, Muslim and other historians to arrive at a core of mutually-agreed upon statements regarding each group's history. Ideally, this multicultural convocation would face shibboleths regarding "enemy" ethnic groups, examine national memories for their accuracy and rationality and separate truth from prejudice. The mediation of Western experts will be vital.

Responsibility will have to be accepted for the crimes of one nation against the other. Serbs will have to admit their nation's guilt for the dictatorship of King Alexander in the 1920s and 1930s, which undermined the pre-war Kingdom of Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia. Croatia will have to come clean on the holocaust of Serbs at Jasenovac. The same is true for the Christian relationship with the Muslims. The Muslims need to admit that their ancestors abused and lorded it over the Christians for centuries. The Serbs, while granting them forgiveness, must ask in turn for their pardon for recent savagery.

We have precedents for such national confessions of guilt in the West German acceptance of responsibility for Nazi crimes against Jews, and recently in the French intellectuals' call for their government to condemn the Vichy government's persecution of Jews.

If such a healing process is to take place in the Balkans, it will be best to keep it out of the hands of religious leaders and politicians. The liturgy of reconciliation should be written by the poet, aided by others of good will. Thus the Yugoslavia that many of us in the West truly loved for its diversity may pass peacefully into history — The Washington Post.

LETTERS

Hypothetical scenarios

To the Editor:

I WAS shocked and very dismayed to read Rami Khouri's article "Jordan's opportunity: Where history and elegance coincide" (Jordan Times, Sept. 8, 1992), as Mr. Khouri took it upon himself to take advantage of what he insensitively refers to as "opportunity" to chart the future course of Jordan.

Mr. Khouri suggests that instead of displaying their affection to His Majesty following his surgery the people of Jordan should be thinking about a post-Hussein era. The medical condition of His Majesty provides the opportunity for this, according to the article, especially now that the institutionalisation process is well under way in the country.

Apart from its wrong timing, and the bad taste in which it is written, the article ignores the Constitution of Jordan, which governs the line of succession. The presence of a capable Crown Prince, whose wide-ranging knowledge and great experience have won him national and international respect, was not even mentioned in this article, thus suggesting an unknown and perhaps a chaotic eventuality, which Mr. Khouri is trying to avoid.

Drawing parallels with Sudan under Nimeiri, Iran under the Shah, and Somalia under Siad Barre, contradicts Mr. Khouri's affirmation that Jordan has become a country built on institutions which safeguard democracy and political pluralism. Moreover, I fail to understand how this moment provides the opportunity that the article speaks of.

It is plausible that Mr. Khouri is searching for reasons to substantiate his shallow proposal, and pretending that he is only going along with what His Majesty said in his speeches.

King Hussein's wise leadership and the central role that his Majesty assumed in building Jordan, and shaping its destiny, have provided for the continuity of this country. Theoretical assumptions and hypothetical scenarios that are far from our real world must be avoided lest they become a subject matter of a useless debate.

The historical mission of the Hashemites is an established reality in the history of the Middle East, dating back to the Great Arab Revolt. The religious and political leadership of the Al al-Bayt will continue to dominate the course of our future and that of our region.

Mr. Khouri should have read more of history, in order for him to understand its significance. Had this been the case, he would not have written his whimsical article.

Daoud M. Suleiman,
P.O. Box 6518,
Amman.

Not so elegant or humble

To the Editor:

I would like to say a few things regarding Rami Khouri's article "Jordan's opportunity: Where history and elegance coincide", appearing in the Jordan Times, Tuesday, Sept. 8, 1992.

Such an article is supposedly meant to reach the masses in Jordan. Why was it written in English, in the Jordan Times? What audience was it meant to reach?

Did Rami Khouri write it as a Palestinian, an American or a Jordanian national?

The word that strikes me most in the title is "elegance." I must say that the elegance Rami Khouri recommends to others is sadly lacking in his own text. The choice of his words, sometimes, is far from elegant and that is amazing in someone who masters the English language as well as he does.

The expression "take the opportunity" is, to say the least, superficial and uncouth. In the title, it is Jordan who should "take the opportunity" to open its eyes; further on, it is us, the Jordanians, who "should take the opportunity" of His Majesty's illness to start looking for an heir to the throne; still further down, it is the King who "should take the opportunity" to get the fun he never had in his life.

Jordan, Mr. Khouri surely knows, has a Crown Prince who has worked relentlessly to fulfill his duties, and has not spared an effort to serve his country ever since he was named heir to the throne. He is a cultured, serious and dedicated man. He knows the economic, social and political situation of the country inside out. If there is someone who has worked smoothly in tandem with his brother, it is Crown Prince Hassan.

I was born and raised in a hospital, from a family of physicians. Illnesses do not scare me and I am not shocked or scared by the word cancer. But who told Mr. Khouri that His Majesty has "cancerous, malignant cells in the kidney"? It seems to me that if that were true, the King should undergo chemotherapy which he is not.

My family and I are certainly among those who have deep loyalty for this King and country; and alongside many Jordanians, we do not only "profess to show affection..." with a shower of superlative praise!

Comparing His Majesty with the Shah, Numeiri and Siad Barre is distasteful and inadequate. His Majesty has provided a model for political transition and pluralistic democracy. His Majesty has provided us with the ultimate example of political nobility and mobility.

Rami Khouri is giving advice in abundance. He is trying to teach all of us a lesson, including the King, in civility and humility. Those who know His Majesty, however, also know that each time they see him they learn a new lesson in humility and civility.

Rami Khouri's suggestion seems absolutely ludicrous; does he want to act as an "arbitrator philosophorum" in Jordan, a modern Socrates? Why doesn't he start learning himself a lesson of humility and civility?

Flavia Tesio Romero,
Amman.

Legal strength available

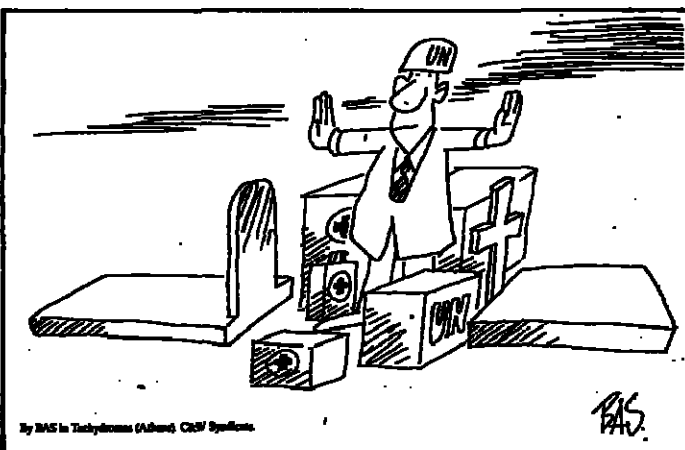
To the Editor:

I would like to respond with a few comments regarding the article "Conducting Peace Negotiations Requires New Guidelines," by Waleed Sadi (Jordan Times Sept. 7, 1992).

- In terms of assessing the tone of the Jordanian team's daily press conferences and statements, I have always felt that they have been consistently optimistic on a consistent basis.
- Even if the astute writer felt a particular inconsistency in the level and tone of declared optimism and pessimism, it is surely a reflection of the actual feeling in the negotiating rooms. In a fledgling democracy, such as ours, public officials or those charged with a public duty on a part-time voluntary basis, as in the case of the team, are learning how to strike a balance in terms of information that is released, on such a vital topic, between the public's right to know on the one hand and compromising their own negotiating position on the other.
- I am not sure that veteran lawyers are more qualified than seasoned statesmen and professionals in this regard.
- I wish to draw the attention of our distinguished writer that his contention that a flip-flop in the daily assessments of the conduct of the negotiations will have a bearing on the Jordanian negotiating position is illogical and totally baseless. The leaders of the Jordanian team have avoided releasing information on the true substance of the negotiations, the particular subjects under discussion and their minimum acceptable position on each issue.
- For the information of the well-informed writer, the Jordanian team draws upon a wealth of experience in the relevant professional areas under negotiations. These are supported by international relations experts, political scientists and lawyers within the main team itself and part of the supporting teams in Washington and Amman.
- Considering the article as a whole, the writer seems to be attempting to string together a series of events and their consequences, implying that the team's daily press statements will eventually lead to a national calamity. The "inconsistent" reporting of the negotiations atmosphere by the team leads to the questioning of the team's judgement in conducting the actual negotiations, both of which will finally result in an "advance" make-up of the Jordanian Parliament after next year's elections! This delicate threading of cause and effect over a future twelve-month period is a tenuous exercise in political logic.

It is unfortunate that whilst our peace negotiating team in Washington needs our utmost support, our esteemed writer, who is coincidentally a veteran lawyer, sees it fit to question the suitability of the team and its leadership. His liberal use of terms such as temperamental, non-professional, amateurish and exhibiting a lack of sound judgement in describing the team's performance is in poor taste and implies a lack of appreciation of its make-up, potential and experience.

Abia Asfour Majali,
Amman.



By Miki in Tel-Aviv (Adapted) Cliff Notes

fact that great numbers of those who converted to Islam were members of a heretical Christian sect called "Bogomils" ("pleasing to God"). They were threatened by the Inquisition, and some historians have written that they invited the Ottomans in (1463), rather than face invasion by a Hungarian army blessed by the Pope.

From all this came the saying: "Bosnia fell with a whisper." It wasn't until the rise of nationalism in the last decades of the 18th century that these converts to Islam and their descendants were branded "traitors." Particularly in Yugoslavia, much of the bloodshed of the 20th century may be traced to such reinterpretations of cultural memory by 19th-cen-

far to the south — the scene of the Serbs' fearful loss to the Turks in 1389.

He writes of the Albanian Muslims, who are a huge majority in Kosovo: "Their Sarajevo mother supports them!" Westerners may find the phrase obscure, but it illuminates what in the medic's mind seems the powerful, irrefutable and threatening connection between the Muslims of Bosnia and those of Kosovo.

Of Slav Macedonians, who also occupy a former Serbian medieval province, he comments: "The Macedonians are continuing to play the fool. The time is near when we'll have to protect Kumanovo, too." Kumanovo was the scene of a major Serbian victory in the First Balkan War, 1912.

Jordan hopes for seriousness

(Continued from page 1)

of the Israeli side. "At the same time the three sides — the Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli — should be present together when certain issues are discussed, but we have not reached that point yet," he said.

Member of the Jordanian delegation Jawad Al Anani noted that the negotiations would tackle such thorny issues as the status of the occupied territories, the withdrawal of Israeli forces, water resources, refugees, and others.

Dr. Anani, also quoted by Petra, was against having a timetable for the negotiations since many people were linking any development in the peace process with other issues that might have very little influence in the negotiating process.

"Some people link the peace process to the U.S. presidential elections and believe that something should take place before these elections which will be held in November this year so that President Bush would have a better chance to win," he noted.

"I believe that this might be related, but in fact this will have a great impact on the concerned parties, and the cost might be very high on them," he told Petra. "We should avoid having a set timetable for the process... how can we speed up dealing with historical and basic rights so as to meet a certain political indicator."

He said the Arab parties should not exaggerate expectations when the Israeli teams return to Washington, especially that the change in the Israeli position is not substantial, although they have more acceptance of the concept of Security Council Resolution 242, which forms the basis and the reference

for the peace process "previously they had their own interpretation of the resolutions and now they accept to have it in the process," he said.

Dr. Anani pointed out that there were other issues over which the Israelis did not show any flexibility, namely Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab lands in accordance with Resolution 242. "They do not accept the term 'all' because they say the resolution does not include it and they maintain that their approval of withdrawal means determining the outcome of negotiations beforehand," he said.

He added, "this time they say that negotiations might lead to withdrawal but they refuse to commit themselves to it before hand."

He said the Israeli side does not show flexibility regarding other issues such as the use of arms of mass destruction.

He stressed that Jordan insists on the basic points such as the need for Israel to withdraw from the occupied Jordanian lands, the recognition of the rights of refugees, and the need for Israel to accept it is an occupying force and in this regard Jordan cannot offer any compromise.

Dr. Anani said that Jordan affirms the possibility of reaching a sort of "an agreement on peace because pacts man a lot in international law and the Israelis insist on a pact for psychological factors."

He said Jordan will not sign an agreement unless Israel withdraws from Jordanian and Palestinian territories. But he stressed that Jordan was negotiating only Israel's withdrawal from occupied Jordanian territories and supports the Palestinian side in its negotiations.

Iraqi official urges press freedom

(Continued from page 1)

forced... by the U.S., Britain and France," Mr. Sabah said.

"The continuation of the committee's activities in this manner will harm the credibility of the international organization," he said in a letter published by the Iraqi News Agency (INA).

Mr. Sabah listed electric fans, metal bars for building hospital beds and children's bicycles as some of the banned items.

He urged the U.N. chief to stop what he termed "the committee's ridiculous practices which contradict all human norms and considerations."

Iraq will begin destroying thousands of tonnes of toxic material drained from its vast arsenal of chemical munitions later this month, a U.N. chemical weapons expert said Saturday.

Briton Ron Manley, who inspected plants built for the task at Iraq's main Muthana facility, told reporters in Bahrain he had asked Iraqi experts to modify the equipment before they begin bulk disposal of nerve agent and mustard gas.

But he said he would recommend that the U.N. special commission charged with scrapping Iraq's weapons give Baghdad the go-ahead to begin the destruction process, expected to take between six months and one year.

A chemical hydrolysis plant the size of a three-storey house will be ready to begin neutralising nerve agents in a couple of weeks while a more complex five-metre-long furnace will begin incinerating mustard gas in about two

months, he said.

'Kuwait, Saudis gave arms'

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia shipped American missiles and bombs to Iraq during the Iran-Iraq war without U.S. approval, the Los Angeles Times reported Saturday.

Kuwait supplied Iraq with an undisclosed number of Tow anti-tank missiles and the Saudis sent Baghdad as many as 1,500 bombs, the newspaper reported, citing a classified report prepared by congressional investigators.

The paper quoted a General Accounting Office (GAO) report as saying other American weapons may have been transferred to Baghdad during the Iran-Iraq war but that a GAO investigation was blocked by the U.S. administration's refusal to press for information from its allies in the Gulf.

The report suggests Saudi authorities may have misled U.S. officials about the number of bombs it transferred to Iraq. It questions the accuracy of the Reagan administration's required notification to Congress about the transfer.

The report says investigators found no evidence that U.S. officials authorised the transfer, according to the paper.

The newspaper said the State Department protested at the Kuwait shipment but the Reagan administration made no effort to recover either the advanced anti-tank missiles or the bombs provided by the Saudis.

Sharaa rejects idea of 'leasing'

(Continued from page 1)

"A date has to be set for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian lands including Jerusalem... discussion of this issue cannot be deferred to a later stage," he added.

Mr. Kaddouri, in Cairo also for the Arab League ministerial meeting, said Mr. Rabin's government was using a new language but had to match words with deeds.

"The language used by the new Israeli government has been flexible so far but we still have to feel this flexibility in reality," he said.

"A practical end to settlement and a date for the withdrawal from the territories would distinguish it from the old government (of rightwing Likud Party leader Yitzhak Shamir)," Mr. Kaddouri added.

Mr. Rabin said Thursday that Israel would withdraw from at least part of the Golan Heights in exchange for full peace with Damascus.

PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo told Reuters in Tunis Friday Palestinian peace negotiators would seek a similar Israeli pledge on the occupied territories.

Israel has invited two top Egyptian officials for discussions on ways to advance Middle East

peace efforts, a senior Israeli official said Saturday.

Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told reporters after an hour of talks with Foreign Minister Amr Musa that he hoped Mr. Musa and President Hosni Mubarak's top political adviser Osama Al Baz would visit Israel soon.

"We invited both of them and I really hope that they will come very soon to Israel. It is very very important because Egypt is the only Arab state with which Israel has peace," said Mr. Beilin, who walked the one-kilometre distance from his hotel to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry because of the Jewish Sabbath.

Mr. Mubarak accepted an invitation to go to Israel when Mr. Rabin visited Cairo in July.

"Our relationship should be a kind of a cornerstone for the development of this process between Israel and the whole Arab countries," said Mr. Beilin.

Before arriving in Cairo he said he hoped for a more prominent Egyptian role in multilateral Middle East peace talks.

Mr. Beilin added his talks with Mr. Musa on Saturday and Dr. Baz on Friday focused on the multilateral talks, due to resume next month. He said there were differences between Egypt and Israel but hoped they could be ironed out.

U.S. assails Chinese nuclear sale

(Continued from page 1)

Muslim allies in Bosnia in violation of the U.N. economic embargo. Iran denied the allegation.

Meanwhile, Gulf Arab states and their western allies are working on strategies to deal with Iran's possible acquisition of former Soviet submarines, a senior British naval officer said Saturday.

"Until now we've focused on Iran's surface forces. But Iran intends to purchase submarines for her own navy," said Captain Tony Hogg, commander of British naval forces in the Gulf.

A senior Russian official confirmed in June widespread reports that Iran had bought three submarines from the former Soviet Union. The successor states in the Commonwealth of Independent States had yet to honour the contract, he added.

U.S. newspaper reports said the three submarines were K-class 70 metre diesel patrol which carry 45 crew and 18 torpedoes each.

Capt. Hogg told a press conference on board the British frigate Chatham in Dubai's Rashid port that naval commanders from the Gulf states and the Western allies considered the submarine threat

from Iran at a meeting 10 days ago.

"The meeting looked at how they could be deployed, should they be bought," he said. The shallow waters of the Gulf were "an appalling place for both submarines and anti-submarine operations," he added.

Tensions have increased between Iran and its Gulf Arab neighbours since its virtual annexation in April of the small island of Abu Musa, half-way across the Gulf and close to the deepest shipping channel in the Gulf. Waters around Abu Musa go even deeper, reaching more than 60 metres — not far from the Gulf's entrance in the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's action increased speculation that it might want to build a base on Abu Musa that could be used by any submarines it acquires.

Capt. Hogg said the Sept. 2 meeting on the frigate was attended by naval representatives of the United States, Britain, France and Australia and "the majority of Gulf states." He would not name them.

He said the Abu Musa dispute was raised at the meeting but the United Arab Emirates, which shares control of Abu Musa with Iran, had not sought help.

Plan clears way for loan guarantees

(Continued from page 1)

Israel Television.

Mr. Bush has promised the deal would not put Israeli military superiority at a risk. White House Chief of Staff James Baker telephoned Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Thursday to inform him of Mr. Bush's decision, said Oded Ben Ami, Mr. Rabin's spokesman on defence issues.

"Right now it is just verbal opposition," Mr. Ben Ami explained, refusing to elaborate if Israel would be seeking "compensation."

Nevertheless, Mr. Shoval and Israel's military attaché in Washington Giora Rom have been invited to meet Defence Secretary Richard Cheney over the sale, Israel Television reported.

The Saudis want to buy 72 planes in a \$6 billion deal with terms still being negotiated. Building them would preserve 7,000 defence jobs, according to McDonnell Corp. where the jobs are.

The White House said the sale would "directly provide over 40,000 aerospace jobs" and have an economic impact on workers in 45 U.S. states.

Mr. Bush said he had considered the stability of the Middle

East, the need to maintain Israel's military edge, the Arab-Israeli peace talks and the defence needs of Saudi Arabia and its relationship with the United States.

"I have worked on this issue personally, touching every base, and I am now satisfied that we have adequately addressed each of these concerns and that we can, and indeed must for our own interest, go forward with this sale," he said.

The U.S. plans would threaten Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Moshe Gur said the U.S. plans would threaten Israel's security.

"Israel has every reason to oppose the sale of the planes to Saudi Arabia... this is an issue that truly affects the security of the state of Israel," Mr. Gur told radio.

"Whoever looks at the common border between Israel and Jordan and Saudi Arabia cannot be indifferent to (the presence of) additional F-15s in Saudi Arabia," he said.

Mr. Gur suggested Israel would expect U.S. measures to bolster the Jewish state's security.

"We must... strengthen, along with the Americans, our national security in such a way that this type of sale won't harm us," he said.

Hrawi, Assad

(Continued from page 1)

Officials said Mr. Hrawi and Mr. Assad consult on the Arab-Israeli peace talks due to resume in Washington on Monday.

Mr. Hrawi, a Maronite elected president Nov. 24, 1989 with a mandate to oversee the Taif accord, signed the reforms into law on Sept. 22, 1990 and the Lebanese parliament ratified them two days later.

Right-wingers of one million-strong Maronite sect, the largest among the Christian community, were outraged by the insistence of Mr. Hrawi's Syrian-backed administration to conduct the elections before the Syrian redeployment.

In addition to boycotting the polls, two key Maronite cabinet members, Foreign Minister Faris Bweiz and Telecommunications Minister George Saadeh, resigned their posts.

That tipped the sectarian balance in the half-Christian, half-Muslim cabinet.

Several Muslim leaders called after the elections for reconciliation with the Christians to set the stage for forming a new balanced cabinet. Mr. Assad has been urged to oversee the reconciliation.

The European Community Friday said the Lebanese election had produced a parliament which did not fully reflect the will of the people.

In a glum assessment of voting, the 12 EC states said in a statement that the democratic process had been impeded by alleged irregularities and interference.

The statement said member states "regret that the low turnout, alleged irregularities and interference and denial of access to voting booths in the south has impeded the democratic process and produced a parliament which does not fully reflect the political will of the Lebanese people."

"They reaffirm their support for the Taif accord as the best basis for achieving Lebanese independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, free of all foreign troops," the statement said.

Giant-killer question dogs Bush, Clinton

by Jim Wolf
Reuter

WASHINGTON — What did he know and when did he know it?

Washington's old giant-killer question — first asked about Richard Nixon during the 1973 Senate Watergate hearings — is back and haunting the election campaigns of President George Bush, on Iran-Contra issues, and Bill Clinton, on his draft record.

For Mr. Bush, the issue is fresh evidence challenging his account of his role, as vice president, in the Iran-Contra affair. The Reagan administration's most damaging scandal.

Questions about Mr. Bush's involvement have been revived by a document containing then-Secretary of State George Shultz's notes of a 1987 telephone conversation with then-Secretary of Defence Casper Weinberger.

According to the notes, Mr. Weinberger expressed indignation that Mr. Bush had played down his knowledge of the arms-for-hostage deal in a 1987 Washington Post interview.

In that interview and subsequent comments, Mr. Bush said he never weighed in against the Iran arms sales policy because he was unaware of Mr. Shultz's and Mr. Weinberger's objections.

"We were not in the loop," he said at the time.

Now, five years later, Mr. Bush is being asked to square that account with the Shultz memo quoting Mr. Weinberger's angry and incredulous reaction.

The memo, dictated to an aide the day after the interview, said Mr. Weinberger had called to complain about Mr. Bush's disclaimer, and said it was "terrible. He was on the other side. It's on the record. Why did he say that?"

The memo was introduced in

an obstruction-of-justice case being brought against Mr. Weinberger, the highest-ranking Reagan administration official indicted in the Iran-Contra affair.

"What gives this episode its relevance is Mr. Bush's efforts to make 'trust' a theme of his reelection campaign," Washington Post columnist David Broder wrote recently.

Beyond the question of whether Mr. Bush withheld information or shaded the truth as to his knowledge of Iran-Contra, the Clinton campaign has seized on it to fend off constant hammering over Mr. Clinton's draft status during the Vietnam war.

Opening the final leg of the run for the November 3 election, Mr. Clinton challenged reporters on Monday to probe the "veracity" of Mr. Bush's stated lack of knowledge of the arms-for-hostage deal.

At a campaign stop in Independence, Missouri, the front-running challenger said Mr. Bush's action may have demonstrated "support for illegal conduct." Mr. Clinton added that any inconsistencies in Mr. Bush's comments should be treated far more seriously than reports about his draft history.

Mr. Clinton was responding to a question about why he had blamed reporters, in an interview with NBC News on Sunday night, for the latest hitch in his year-long struggle to explain how he stayed out of uniform during the Vietnam War.

This latest flap, based on a Los Angeles Times report, forced Mr. Clinton to issue a statement late last week that he had known since last spring that an uncle had tried to shield him from the war by getting him a spot in the naval reserve.

After the Los Angeles Times report, Mr. Clinton first said he knew nothing of his uncle's actions, then acknowledged that someone had informed him of it last March.

The political difficulty is that answers that appear hedged lead to media scrutiny that distracts from other messages a candidate is trying to convey.

Although Mr. Clinton is likely to play up Iran-Contra to impugn Mr. Bush's credibility, the six-year-old scandal is so complicated and resonates with so few voters that its impact may be limited.

Thus, Mr. Clinton may be in greater peril from these "character" issues right now, some analysts said.

Since Mr. Bush is a well-known quantity to most Americans, "revelations about Iran-Contra are less likely to overturn the public's view of him, whatever it may be, negative or positive," said Ellen Hume, a media analyst at Harvard's Shorenstein Barone Centre on the Press and Politics.

Mr. Clinton, on the other hand, is relatively little known. "Therefore revelations or doubts are much more likely to stick," she added.

The British Council

GCE

Entries are now being accepted for January 1993 General Certificate of Education Examination as of 14 September 1992. Bring with you an official identity document and one photograph.

Closing date: 21 September 1992

Registration time: 09:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Thursdays and Fridays are excluded. Candidates are required to register during that period.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

THE PROFESSIONALS
ALWAYS CHOOSE
THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT
FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR
SERVICES AND
DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS
CLEARANCE, TICKETS
AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
Tel: 604676 604696
P.O. Box 7506
AMMAN

CROWN
INT'L EST.
Packing, shipping,
forwarding, storage,
clearing, door-to-door
service
Air, Sea and Land

Agents all over the world
Tel: 664090
Fax: 698652
P.O. Box 926487 Amman

SABEEL
HOTEL SUITES

Tel: 635711 - Fax: 635712
P.O. Box 2206 Amman, Jordan
Off the 2nd Circle, Jabal Amman

CHINA
RESTAURANT
AQABA

CHINESE FOOD
Open daily
12:00 - 15:00 & 18:30 - 23:30
Tel: 03 - 314415

KALIS
KALIS CENTRE FOR DRY CLEANING
YOUR BEST CHOICE
IN JORDAN

* Kals Dryclean, 1 Hr. Service
* Shoes repair * Engraving
* Keys Service
* Upholstery, curtains & carpets
clearing
6 Branches at YOUR Service
Mecca Street, behind Pizza
Hut, phone 621656, Fax
628183

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Copying to
your requirements
Digitalizing color film at
your own price
30% discount
Free delivery
Tel: 628183

FOR RENT

Fully furnished apartment, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 150 sq.m., living and dining area, separate family room. Nicely furnished. Total area 335 sq.m. Location: Sweifeh.

Tel: 810605/810609/
810520

MANDARIN RESTAURANT

Special Chinese Foods
Skilled Chinese Chefs
Open 11:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.
Take away is available
Wadi Saqra Road
near Philadelphia Hotel
Tel: 681022, Amman

Once Tested
Always Loved

SABEEL
HOTEL SUITES

Tel: 635711 - Fax: 635712
P.O. Box 2206 Amman, Jordan
Off the 2nd Circle, Jabal Amman

CHINA
RESTAURANT
AQABA

CHINESE FOOD
Open daily
12:00 - 15:00 & 18:30 - 23:30
Tel: 03 - 314415

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best
Chinese Restaurant
in Jordan
1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near
Ahliah Girls School
Take-away service
Open daily 12:00-3:30
p.m.
6:30-Midnight
Tel: 639968

PEKING RESTAURANT

Authentic
CHINESE
Cuisine
elegant
colorful atmosphere
moderate prices
(now open daily)

CHINESE
RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk
Engineers' Housing
Estate, near Kilo
Supermarket
Mongolian Barbecue for
Lunch Friday only
Tel: 818214
Come and taste our
specialties
Open daily 12:00 - 3:30
p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

TAIWAN TOURISMO

Chinese Restaurant
New management by
Mr. Chen. D. H.
Take away service
& home delivery
Open daily
12:00 - 15:30 18:30 - Midnight
Near Third Circle,
opposite Akilah Hospital
Jabal Amman, tel. 641093

MOVING?

Let Aramex Air Cargo
take care of the works,
Door to Door.
Call the friendly
professionals on
660507 or 660508

ARAMEX

FRIDAY &
SUNDAY
LUNCHEON
BUFFET

Res: 665121

TO ADVERTISE
IN THIS SECTION
CALL

667171/6 - 670141/4
Ext. 223

The First Class Hotel in
Amman that has a
Kitchenette in every
room...

DAROTEL
Amman - Tel 668193
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434
Telex 23888 DAROTL JO
Ideal Residence For
Expatriates and
Businessmen

THE RANCH
STEAK HOUSE

The best steak in town

U.S. business confidence in economy withering

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Business confidence fell sharply in summer after rising through the first half of the year, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has said, as fears mounted that a recovery was withering rapidly.

The chamber's latest business confidence index, measuring the attitudes of 5,515 businessmen and women, shows they turned markedly more pessimistic by last month after six months of buoyant hope.

The index — a bimonthly average of three subindexes measur-

ing the economic outlook, business sales and hiring prospects six months ahead — fell to 58 in August from 64.2 in June, when it was last compiled.

"You can almost see people's confidence withering," the business group's chief economist, Lawrence Hunter, said in an interview. It was the first time since December that the index had fallen.

Consumers also are losing confidence about job prospects, a fact that worries President George Bush. Just eight weeks from the Nov. 3 presidential vote,

surveys show the trembling recovery has become voters' No. 1 concern.

"I have been concerned about the confidence factor," Mr. Bush told the convention of B'nai B'rith, the Jewish fraternal organization, "You have so much gloom and doom about the economy that people are scared."

Mr. Hunter said the chamber's survey is "a main street index" that measures the attitudes of entrepreneurs like those who run small retail businesses, machine shops and restaurants and are close to their customers.

Nearly three-quarters of those surveyed have fewer than 25 employees.

The fact that these people see a decline in August when momentum in a recovery should

be building is significant," Mr. Hunter said. "People are losing confidence that this recovery will blossom."

The business confidence index had risen steadily in surveys conducted in February, April and June before faltering last month.

Mr. Hunter said the deterioration "reflects the continuing inability of the economy to rise from recession." Not only is little improvement likely next year, he added, but there is "the distinct possibility that things will get worse."

The steepest drop in August confidence came in the subindex that measures the economic outlook. It declined to 56.7 from 70.9 in June. Only 37.7 per cent of respondents saw an improving economy over the next six

months, compared with 54.4 per cent in June.

Meanwhile, the government said in a report that American business scaled back their plans to increase plant and equipment investment this year, reflecting new skepticism about the strength of the economic recovery.

Businesses surveyed during July and August told the Commerce Department they would spend \$551 billion this year, a 4.3 per cent increase from 1991. In the previous survey, during April and May, businesses had planned a 4.7 per cent increase and before the year began they anticipated a 5.4 per cent rise.

According to economists, the unusually prolonged economic expansion has made businesses cautious about expanding spending on both payroll and on new plants and equipment. Corporate profits are up this year, but only because businesses are keeping a tight rein on costs.

The increase in investment spending this year, if realized, would follow a 0.8 per cent decline in 1991, only the fourth drop in the past 33 years. Spending had risen a moderate five per cent in 1990 after shooting up 11.4 per

cent in 1989 and 10.6 per cent in 1988.

Economists say new investment in plant and equipment is crucial to making U.S. industry competitive with foreign firms and one of the keys of a healthy economy in the long-run.

But, at least for now, most manufacturing companies have little incentive to increase their capacity. Despite modest increases in new orders this year, they've managed to steadily reduce their backlog of unfilled orders.

Most of the planned increase in 1992 is concentrated in aircraft manufacturing, where a 17.7 per cent increase is expected; non-durable goods manufacturing, such as textiles, chemicals and rubber, and at railroad companies and electric companies.

Durable goods factories, which make "big ticket" items such as autos and appliances, plan a 2.5 per cent drop in investment spending after a 3.6 per cent decrease last year.

When adjusted for inflation, overall capital spending is projected to increase 5.8 per cent in 1992 after a 1.6 per cent drop in 1991.

World trade growth slows

WASHINGTON (AP) — World trade, in both value and volume, grew slower last year, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The value of trade in U.S. dollars rose about four per cent in 1991, compared with 14.5 per cent in 1990 and 8.2 per cent in 1989, the IMF said in its annual Direction of Trade Statistics yearbook.

In volume, trade growth slowed down for the third straight year to three per cent, which was the slowest pace since 1983, the report said. Exports from industrial countries rose by 2.1 per cent and imports by 0.9 per cent in U.S. dollars, compared with 15 per cent growth for both exports and imports in 1990, it said.

The report said the overall trade balance of the developing countries moved into a deficit for the first time since 1986, with imports exceeding exports by \$30 billion. Exports for the countries rose by 8.1 per cent while imports increased 14.1 per cent, it said.

Among the worst reported performances was in the states that make up the former Soviet Union, where exports declined by 7.2 per cent and imports by 16.7 per cent.

The IMF reported \$2.5 trillion in exports from industrial countries and \$956.9 billion from developing countries, with imports of \$2.6 trillion by the First World and \$986.5 billion by the Third World.

'Alternative' economists blast Bundesbank policy

BONN (R) — Left-wing economists fiercely attacked the Bundesbank Friday, saying the German central bank's high interest rates were having catastrophic effects and accusing it of exceeding its authority.

"The Bundesbank's high interest rate policy is damaging in every respect," the working group for alternative economic policy, which has close links with trade unions, said in a report on financial and monetary policy.

"This sharply restrictive line is having catastrophic consequences in east and west Germany, in the European Community and other countries and is falsely justified in theory," it pointed out.

The report accused the Bundesbank of exceeding its authority and said it should be made more accountable to parliament. "Through its dictates on interest rate policy, the Bundesbank has misused its autonomy status in the difficult phase of economic unification and challenges in the world economy," it said.

Bundesbank policy was directly obstructing the government's efforts to stimulate investment in former communist East Germany by making it harder for companies to borrow money, it said.

Professor Rudolf Hickel, an economist from Bremen University and one of the authors of the report, said the Bundesbank's attempt to curb money supply growth through high interest rates was having the opposite effect.

High interest rates attracted funds from long-term investment into short-term deposits, thereby boosting M3, a broad measure of

money supply which the Bundesbank closely monitors.

Taking German electronics group Siemens as an example, Dr. Hickel said:

"If Siemens invests relatively short-term because of attractive interest rates, no one can seriously claim that Siemens is building up an inflationary potential. It is following a certain investment strategy."

The independent Bundesbank has come under strong criticism in Germany and abroad since it raised the discount rate in mid-July to a record 8.75 per cent from eight per cent, even though German economic growth was slowing.

The Bundesbank insisted the increase was necessary to slow down rapid growth in lending, which was boosting money supply and could lead to a pick-up in inflation.

Dr. Hickel called on the bank to cut the discount rate to six per cent and the more important Lombard rate for emergency lending in the banking system to eight per cent, their levels in autumn 1990 before five successive increases took them to their current high. This would stimulate economic growth and create jobs.

Challenging the Bundesbank's argument that rising bank lending could be inflationary, the economists said east Germans needed to borrow to pay for the reconstruction of their battered economy and west German companies had to borrow more because their economy was slowing. Credit-financed investment would eventually stimulate growth, they said.

European currencies end tumultuous week clinging to ERM grid

LONDON (R) — European Community (EC) currencies ended a tumultuous week Friday still clinging to their existing levels in the bloc's exchange rate grid, after feverish realignment speculation failed to dislodge them.

But, with just over a week to go until France's Sept. 20 referendum on the Maastricht treaty on European union, the semi-fixed exchange rate mechanism (ERM) remained fragile.

Several EC central banks piled into the open market Friday to support the lira — seen as the leading candidate for any devaluation.

But, despite the hundreds of millions of dollars spent by the Italian, German and Belgian central banks on foreign exchange intervention, the Italian currency remained slumped just above its ERM floor of 765.40 to the mark.

The pound sterling fared better, trading around 2,790 marks, just above its ERM floor of 2,778 marks after British Prime Minister John Major put his own credibility on the line by pledging again not to take "the soft option" of devaluation.

Currency analysts doubted however that the lira and the pound would survive a French "no" vote. Some questioned whether the lira would survive even until Sept. 20.

"The government is desperately trying to get through to Sept. 20 without any (currency) realignment, but it is going to need more than good intentions," said Mario Noera, chief economist at Milan merchant bank Euro-mobiliare.

Ironically, the dollar, usually a victim of the marks strength, benefited Friday from the turmoil in Europe, ending sharply higher at 1,4430 marks after 1,4078 on Thursday as central banks sold the German currency to prop up the lira.

Worries rejected the accord in a referendum in June — have driven investors into the mark, traditionally seen as a safe haven in times of uncertainty.

A French "no" vote would kill the EC's existing plans for economic and monetary union and wreck havoc in financial markets.

The strength of the mark, worries about Maastricht and record high German interest rates have put a severe strain on European attempts to align their currencies in order to improve trading conditions.

On Tuesday, Finland signalled that the strain was too much. It announced that it would allow the markka to float freely, abandoning its attempt to keep its currency tied to the European Currency Unit, and effectively accepting a devaluation.

The news unleashed talk of devaluations in other European countries, forcing them to take drastic counter-measures.

On Wednesday, Sweden raised its marginal lending rate to a staggering 75 per cent to defend the crown, while Italy's Prime Minister Giuliano Amato announced his administration wanted emergency legislative powers to deal with the economy.

On Friday dealers said Italy's central bank spent 873 million marks (\$619 million) trying to shore up the sagging lira as the Italian, German and Belgian central banks fought a war of nerves with traders convinced a devaluation was on the cards.

Leading European shares, which have been depressed the turbulence in currency markets, managed nevertheless to close mixed, helped by the stronger dollar.

London's Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares ended up 30.3 points at 2,370.9, while France's 40-share CAC index climbed 27.81 points to close at 1,801.99.

But Frankfurt's 30-share DAX index finished 0.87 points down at 1,527.80 in dull trading.

In Milan, rumours the Bank of Italy was poised to raise the official discount rate to support the lira ravaged shares and bonds. The Milan bourse's MIB share index closed 1.64 per cent lower and key government bonds at one point stood a full percentage point down. The Bank of Italy denied the rumours.

Earlier Friday, Tokyo's 225-share Nikkei average closed 800.78 points lower at 18,107.69 on futures-linked selling.

In New York, the Dow Jones industrial average was up just 0.82 points at 3,305.98 in early trading there.

Gold closed in London at \$340.45 an ounce, down from \$342.25 on Thursday.

In oil, the international benchmark Brent Blend was down one cent at \$20.37 a barrel for October delivery on London's International Petroleum Exchange.

OECD says reforming states to get more aid

PARIS (AP) — The bulk of aid to poor countries in the next decade will go to those trying to reform, free-market reforms, aid the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) says in a new report.

Both government and private donors will become more discriminating in their foreign aid, the Paris-based OECD said in its annual survey on debt and financing for poor countries.

To a much greater than in the last decade, resource flows are likely to go to those countries making progress on the economic and political fronts," the report said.

The OECD groups the world's largest 24 industrialised democracies. It provides economic statistics and analysis to member

states.

The report said that with development funds becoming ever tighter in wealthy countries, aid recipients will be scrutinized closely to see if they merit donations or refinancing.

Governments will remain the chief source of assistance, the OECD said, but are not likely to increase expenditures much. Private donors will become increasingly important.

The OECD survey said total net resource flows from its members to developing countries totalled \$137.5 billion last year.

The figure is almost the same as in 1990, but represents a three per cent decline after adjustment for inflation and exchange rate fluctuations.

Financial Markets

in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 10/9/1992	New York Close 9/11/1992
Sterling Pound	1.9580	1.9210
Deutsche Mark	1.4258	1.4508
Swiss Franc	1.2665	1.2905
French Franc	4.8585	4.9235
Japanese Yen	125.65	124.30
European Currency Unit	1.4227	1.3985

USD Per SYG
European Opening of 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Practical Metals

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.06	3.12	3.31
Sterling Pound	10.18	10.37	10.62	10.62
Deutsche Mark	9.62	9.62	9.56	9.43
Swiss Franc	7.66	7.66	7.66	7.56
French Franc	10.18	10.27	10.30	10.27
Japanese Yen	4.31	3.93	3.68	3.65
European Currency Unit	11.62	11.56	11.38	11.15

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 12. 9. 1992

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6710	0.6730
Sterling Pound	1.2878	1.2942
Deutsche Mark	0.4621	0.4644
Swiss Franc	0.5197	0.5223
French Franc	0.1361	0.1368
Japanese Yen	0.5393	0.5420
Dutch Guilder	0.4105	0.4124
Swedish Krona	0.1265	0.1271
Italian Lira	0.0804	0.0807
Belgian Franc	0.02242	0.02253

Other Currencies

Date: 12. 9. 1992

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7510	1.7700
Lebanese Lira	0.02485	0.02585
Saudi Riyal	0.1795	0.1784
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2300	2.3100
Qatari Riyal	0.1818	0.1840
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7110	1.7250
UAE Dirham	0.1818	0.1840
Greek Drachma	0.3815	0.3915
Cypriot Pound	1.5950	1.6150

CAP Index for Amman Financial Market

Index	1-9-1992 Close	8-9-1992 Close
All-Share	141.75	145.62
Banking Sector	104.84	105.73
Insurance Sector	147.58	150.74
Industry Sector	191.81	198.47
Services Sector	191.81	198.42

December 31, 1990 = 100

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	17,645	2,950	3,000	3,030
JORDAN KENYA BANK	195,352	2,230	2,260	2,310
THE JORDAN BANK	268,280	2,240	2,420	2,380
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	7,943	2,150	2,180	2,190
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	12,296	2,350	2,350	2,470
JAS BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	29,067	2,270	2,270	2,320
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	220,573	3,360	3,320	3,320
JORDAN OVERSEAS & FOREIGN BANK	17,400	3,400	3,330	3,400
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	124,708	1,250	1,250	1,250
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/NEW	175,950	1,300	1,300	1,300
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	137,482	3,300	3,300	3,300
BANKERS TRUST	3,220	2,170	2,150	2,140
WEST BERNARD INVESTMENT FOR JORDAN	124,638	4,700	4,600	4,660
WESTERN UNION/OLD	278	24,000	24,000	24,000
JORDAN BANK	36,400	118,000	118,000	118,000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/NEW	164,338	2,400	2,400	2,430
ARABIAN ISRAEL INSURANCE	3,310	2,540	1,540	1,540
THE NATIONAL ARABIA INSURANCE	4,406	2,000	2,000	2,000
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	635	1,260	1,260	1,270
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	107,463	4,940	5,000	4,980
LIVNOST & POWER	28,773	1,260	1,300	1,260
WESTERN UNION/NEW	3,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE	3,840	2,420	2,400	2,400
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONSUMER GOODS	117,260	2,720	2,660	2,660
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	1,350	0,240	0,240	0,250
INDUSTRIAL EQUIP. TRADING & MAINTENANCE	39,739	1,050	1,050	1,070
PETER INVESTMENTS & EQUIPMENTS LEASING	346,673	1,100	1,100	1,160
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	517,031	0,810	0,820	0,850
JORDAN TRADING CO. FOR AGENT & FOOD PROD.	2,280	1,150	1,140	1,140
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	27,287	1,670	1,600	1,540
JORDAN BANK	73,341	2,200	2,210	2,400
ARAB INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIES	84,914	800	1,100	780
ARAB INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIES	119,044	6,640	6,470	6,770
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	96,189	5,800	5,610	5,670
ARAB CRITICAL CHEMICALS INDUSTRIES	12,820	21,400	21,300	21,900
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	329,171	5,900	5,930	5,930
ARAB AL DUNE DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	340,082	7,620	7,620	7,730
INTERNATIONAL PAPER-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	40,303	3,600	3,600	3,630
THE JORDAN WOODS MILLS	125,335	6,600	6,600	10,900
JORDAN CRITICAL CHEMICALS	25,044	5,680	5,700	5,630
JORDAN CRITICAL CHEMICALS	11,142	0,680	0,680	0,690
JORDAN CRITICAL CHEMICALS	11,495	3,950	3,950	3,950
THE JORDAN TYRE MANUFACTURING	207,896	2,800	2,800	2,920
ARAB CRITICAL CHEMICALS	574,509	2,160	2,180	2,300
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	97,857	0,690	0,690	0,700
ARAB CRITICAL CHEMICALS	64,924	4,600	4,740	4,830
JORDAN CRITICAL CHEMICALS	27,823	23,500	23,700	23,700
DATA INDUSTRIES	4,964	3,350	3,240	3,310
MOBILE INDUSTRIES	22,534	1,770	1,800	1,860
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & SERVICE/JOINT	3,035	1,070	1,050	1,070
SPORTING & TRADING	14,493	2,860	2,870	2,900
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JWC	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600
NATIONAL CRITICAL & WIDE MANUFACTURING	54,574	6,200	6,200	6,200
THE JORDAN CRITICAL FACTORIES	43,741	2,890	2,640	2,640
JORDAN CRITICAL CHEMICALS	32,503	1,310	1,300	1,310
JORDAN CRITICAL CHEMICALS	3,476	1,660	1,660	1,630
JORDAN CRITICAL CHEMICALS	16,231	0,470	0,470	0,490
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	208,037	4,760	4,790	4,860
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	532,083	2,260	2,290	2,370
JORDAN PETROLEUM SERVICES	29,327	8,040	8,040	8,150

GRAND TOTAL 5,912,541

NO. OF TRADING SECTORS IN PARALLEL MARKET 1 6900

TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET 1 70 18251

10/13/1992

10/13/1992

10/13/1992

We will not fire first, says Bosnian Serb leader

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnia's Serbs have placed all their heavy weapons around four cities under U.N. supervision and will not fire them unless they come under heavy fire, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said Saturday.

"Even if we are provoked we will not fire back," Mr. Karadzic told Reuters by telephone from Pale, his headquarters outside Sarajevo. "If it is just a few shells we shall not respond — only if we come under heavy attack from the Muslims."

Mr. Karadzic was speaking moments after a noon deadline for the weapons to be put under United Nations observation around Sarajevo, Bihac, Jajce and Gorazde.

"We have no others, and we have already withdrawn them from around Gorazde," said Mr. Karadzic.

"We have been ready since the day before yesterday to accept U.N. supervision," he added, insisting that if any heavy shelling broke out now it would be started by his Muslim and Croat foes.

Sarajevo enjoyed its quietest night for months on the eve of the deadline, although earlier Friday city centre buildings including the Bristol Hotel were set on fire by shells.

There were no reports of shelling in the Bosnian capital Saturday, but Radio Sarajevo said a heavy artillery attack had been launched on Bihac and its surroundings only hours before the deadline.

The radio quoted its correspondent in the western Bosnian towns as saying: "Powerful explosions of mortar, howitzer and tank shells can be heard from all sides." There was no independent confirmation of the report.

But only minutes later the first cracks appeared in the weapons monitoring agreement.

Ejup Ganic, a Muslim member of the Bosnian presidency, told Reuters in the centre of Sarajevo: "We been shelled all day from Karadzic's side."

"Ask UNPROFOR (the United Nations Protection Force) how many (Serb) positions they are monitoring ... and they are welcome to monitor our weapons."

Despite his words, only sniper and light arms fire was heard in the city centre and Mr. Ganic did not specify where the shelling had taken place.

Mr. Karadzic said he hoped the monitoring of the heavy weapons would lead to a permanent ceasefire in Sarajevo and elsewhere.

"We are willing to stop the fighting now and stay where we are and wait for a political solution, which should be reached very soon in Geneva," he said.

He confirmed that he would himself lead the Bosnian Serb delegation to the Geneva peace talks due to start next Friday.

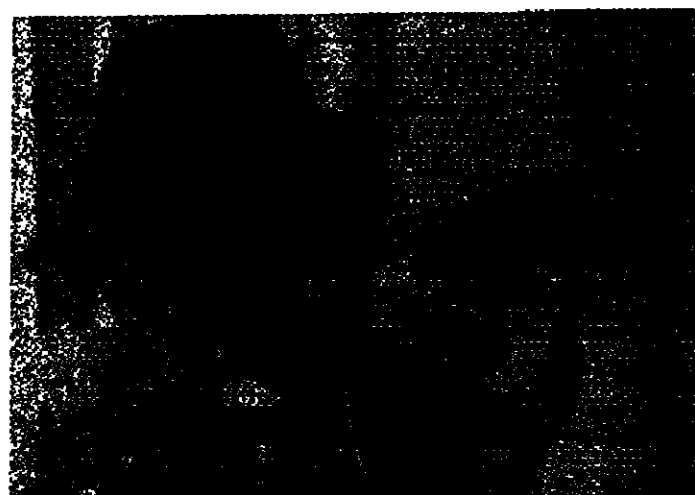
"I will stay there as long as it takes — as long as I am not wasting my time," he said.

The current fighting erupted when Bosnia's Muslims and Croats voted for an independent state against the wishes of the Serb minority, who have used their far greater firepower to take control of some two-thirds of the republic.

But Mr. Karadzic insisted that the five month ordeal of Sarajevo was not a siege, but a defence of the 60-70,000 Serbs in the capital.

"We are letting humanitarian convoys into the city but the Serbs there are not getting any aid," he said. "They are hostages — we demand that the Muslim side let them go."

In Belgrade, U.N. envoy Cyrus Vance, who met Mr. Karadzic and Bosnian government leaders



A Serbian fighter takes aim in Sarajevo as fighting ensues in Bosnia.

Thursday along with European Community mediator Lord Owen, unexpectedly prolonged his visit.

Lord Owen flew home to Britain earlier Saturday but Mr. Vance had more talks with Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic.

He also discussed the heavy weapons monitoring with Yugoslav chief of staff Zivota Panic and UNPROFOR Commander General Satish Nambiar, along with UNPROFOR head of civil affairs Cedric Thornberry.

Sources close to the meeting said they also discussed aspects of an agreement signed Friday by Prime Minister Panic committing Yugoslavia to take "all practical steps" to end the siege of Sarajevo.

Yugoslavia, now consisting only of Serbia and Montenegro, officially has no part in the Bosnian conflict, but still exercises strong influence over the Bosnian Serbs.

The joint communiqué, which also pledged steps to end "ethnic cleansing" of Muslim and Croat civilians from Serb-majority

areas, was not signed by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

Mr. Milosevic, a hardline nationalist, is a rallying figure for many of the Serb irregulars fighting in Sarajevo and he and Panic are in increasingly open conflict.

Mr. Panic's Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic resigned Thursday, bitterly denouncing his policies, and was promptly replaced as Serbian foreign minister by Milosevic.

Mr. Panic and Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic also agreed to reopen the main motorway linking the Croatian capital Zagreb and Belgrade, closed since Croatia's secession a year ago.

They undertook to permit the stationing of independent observers at military airfields and border crossings between Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro.

The communiqué said agreement in principle had been reached to demilitarise the Prevlaka peninsula, Croatia's southernmost tip on the Adriatic, now occupied by Yugoslav Federal Forces.

Yeltsin reverses threat to oust opponents

MOSCOW (AP) — Boris Yeltsin has reversed threats to try and oust hardline opponents from the Russian Supreme Soviet and recent polls indicate the Russian president's popularity is slipping.

Mr. Yeltsin's Friday statement came amid claims of victory by Russian nationalists who said they had forced the president two days ago to postpone a long-awaited trip to Japan.

They had threatened to seek Mr. Yeltsin's impeachment if he surrendered any of the disputed Kuril Islands to Japan in exchange for badly needed economic assistance.

"The story of the visit to Japan and South Korea that failed to take place testifies to Mr. Yeltsin's shaky position and to a weakening of the democratic will in the Russian leadership," Izvestia said in a commentary Friday.

"The supporters of a moderate course in international affairs have suffered a serious defeat," it said.

Mr. Yeltsin's government has slowed the pace of its painful economic reforms in recent months, loosening up some of the tight fiscal policies imposed at the beginning of the year.

Recent polls have shown Mr. Yeltsin's popularity falling. The percentage of people who trust Mr. Yeltsin's economic policies fell to 33 per cent in August, from a January high of 58 per cent, the daily Izvestia newspaper reported Tuesday. The poll did not give a margin of error.

Sergei Skvortsov, a leader of the All-Russian Committee for the Defence of the Kuril Islands, called the postponement of the Japan visit "the first real victory for the patriotic forces — Communists and non-Communist patriots."

He added: "It is perfectly clear that the existing regime is unable to change its anti-people policy and should be liquidated."

The president's unexpected support for lawmakers came less than two weeks before the Supreme Soviet legislature is to convene.

Mr. Yeltsin's statement Friday was a clear departure from previous threats to call a national referendum or new elections to remove the former Communists who dominate the legislature and the larger Congress of People's Deputies.

It indicated that Mr. Yeltsin now thinks he might lose such a battle.

"Now, when the most difficult state of reforms is over, it is important to end all talk about the uselessness of deputies' work," Mr. Yeltsin said during a visit to the Volga River city of Cheboksary, 650 kilometres east of Moscow. The speech was carried live on Russian Radio and later broadcast on Russian Television.

The Khmer Rouge signed the peace agreement last October but has balked at disarming because, it says, Vietnamese troops are still active in Cambodia.

UNTAC says the guerrilla group has offered no evidence of this.

Prince Sihanouk said Khmer Rouge President Khieu Samphan had contradicted his remarks on the need for a transfer of power from the Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh government to the Supreme National Council, a reconciliation body formed by all four Cambodian factions.

"There is no common ground between Mr. Khieu Samphan and Mr. Hun Sen," the prince said.

S. African judge takes over massacre inquiry

CAPE TOWN (R) — A judge appointed by President F.W. de Klerk to probe South African township violence said Saturday he had taken over the inquiry into a massacre by troops in the nominally independent Ciskei homeland.

Judge Richard Goldstone, respected by all sides for the impartiality of his enquiries so far, said in a statement his commission, which includes judges and legal academics, had taken over from Ciskei's own Justice Department.

He said he would report to President F.W. de Klerk by the end of the month Monday's gunning down by Ciskei soldiers of at least 28 people in a crowd of 60,000 marching on the homeland capital of Bisho. Nearly 200 people were wounded.

He said also that he had appointed 26 lawyers, policemen and soldiers to five special investigation teams that would report directly to him on violence in four key areas.

Police Saturday reported 18 people, including a family of six at Empangeni in Natal province and four policemen, killed in township violence Friday.

The independent South African Institute of Race Relations said Friday 1,800 people had died in township violence this year and 13,600 people had been killed in

clashes since 1984. In King Williamstown, adjacent to the Ciskei capital of Bisho, police released 154 people detained Friday in connection with arms found at an African National Congress (ANC) Youth League office.

Police said two men were held and would face charges of illegal possession of arms apparently stolen from the homes of Ciskei soldiers after Monday's massacre.

South Africa usually argues that it cannot dictate to or dismiss military ruler Oupa Gqozo because Ciskei, a small southcoast tribal territory, is an independent country.

But in an apparent concession to international pressure following Monday's shooting, Mr. de Klerk instructed Judge Goldstone to report on the incident.

"The state president has further requested the commission urgently to make recommendations on steps which should be taken to prevent a repetition of such events," Judge Goldstone said.

He said he had agreed with Ciskei's chief judge to take over the enquiry from Gen. Gqozo's administration.

The five special investigation teams appointed Saturday would fan out to Natal province, where the killing rate is highest.

Hammarhjold death was no accident — former aides

LONDON (R) — The plane crash that killed U.N. Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld in northern Rhodesia in 1961 was not accidental but caused by mercenaries working for Belgian mining interests in the Congo, former U.N. officials say.

The former officials, in a letter published in Britain's Guardian newspaper Friday, say they decided to speak out after the downing of an Italian plane on a U.N. relief mission to Sarajevo on Sept. 3.

"Now the Italian crew on a mercy mission to Bosnia have been shot down we feel it is time that we should say that we are convinced that ... Hammarskjöld was killed in the same way," George Ivan Smith and Conon O'Brien wrote.

The two men were U.N. representatives in Katanga, a province of the newly independent Congo (later Zaïre), at the time of the U.N. Secretary-General's death.

Mr. Hammarskjöld was killed on Sept. 17, 1961, when his plane crashed on its way from the Congolese capital, Leopoldville (now Kinshasa) to the northern Rhodesian town of Ndola to persuade the president of Katanga to end his bid to secede.

The official version of the crash was that there was no evidence to support any suggestion that the aircraft was fired upon or exploded in flight.

But the two former officials said two mercenaries have admitted in taped interviews that they shot at the plane from two intercept aircraft to divert it and prevent the meeting.

"They were acting under orders from the mining Cabal

who wanted to control Katanga's copper, uranium and diamonds," Mr. Smith said, adding the Cabal was led by a Belgian mining conglomerate he identified as Union Minière de Haut Katanga.

The two men said in the letter they did not believe the orders were to shoot down the plane. They believe the warning shot must have hit a wire and caused the plane to crash.

"Reluctantly we open this case in the interests of peace and peoples who work for it," the letter said. "Bosnia is subject to raw race and religious prejudice, causing brigands to commit the same type of insane acts from which we suffered in the Congo."

"In the name of peace, should not agents of the U.N. be protected?"

Belgium's Union Minière Mining Company denied Friday that mercenaries working for Belgian mining interests caused the plane crash.

A Union Minière statement said the letter from Smith and O'Brien and an accompanying article in the newspaper "comes after 30 years of silence and is surprising."

"We consider the case shut, (the inquiries) came to the conclusion that it was an accident and the plane was not shot at," Union Minière spokesman Eddy Cornelis added.

Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes declined to comment when asked about the affair during a routine press briefing. He said he would wait to know the basis of the newspaper articles before commenting.

Kyodo said Mr. Watanabe insisted the Japanese government preferred to accept Mr. Yeltsin's Wednesday statement in a telephone call to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa that he was postponing his trip because of Russian domestic problems and not because of any dissatisfaction with Japan.

Japan threatens to scrap CIS aid talks

TOKYO (R) — Japan is threatening to scrap plans to host an international conference on aid for the former Soviet republics as a Russo-Japanese war of words heated up over President Boris Yeltsin's aborted trip to Tokyo.

Clearly angered by charges from Moscow that Japanese intransigence was to blame for the diplomatic fiasco, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe gave a warning Friday that he might decline to chair the conference, set for Oct. 28-29.

"If we are to go by what is being said now in Russia, there may be no point in holding the

conference here, with me as its chairman," Mr. Watanabe said in an interview with Kyodo News Service published overnight.

"Given the present situation, we may have to reconsider," the foreign minister added.

Mr. Watanabe was quoted as saying he would make a final decision on his return from next week's U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York, where he was expected to meet Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

He rejected remarks by Mr. Yeltsin earlier in the day in the

Russian City of Cheboksary that the visit had been called off because Japan had proved "toocategorical" in its demands that Russia hand back four North Pacific islands seized at the end of World War II.

Kyodo said Mr. Watanabe insisted the Japanese government preferred to accept Mr. Yeltsin's Wednesday statement in a telephone call to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa that he was postponing his trip because of Russian domestic problems and not because of any dissatisfaction with Japan.

Hurricane Iniki causes heavy damage in Hawaii

HONOLULU, Hawaii (R) — Hurricane Iniki slammed into Hawaii with winds of up to 160 mph (256 kph) Friday, forcing tens of thousands of people to flee inland, flooding roads and destroying homes.

The hurricane, the first to hit the state in 10 years and one of the strongest in Hawaiian history, brushed past the heavily populated island of Oahu and scored a direct hit on Kauai, a tourist resort of about 50,000 people.

Amateur radio operators — Kauai's only link to the outside world after communications were knocked out — reported that the roof was torn off the main state government building in Lihue, the island's biggest town.

Harvey Hartenstein, a radio operator on Oahu, said he had heard accounts of extensive damage throughout the volcanic island. Power was knocked out and coastal highways swamped by 20-foot (six-metre) waves. Beachfront homes were destroyed by surging tides.

About 160 kilometres to the

southeast, Oahu and the state capital Honolulu were spared the brunt of the storm. Damage was relatively moderate and there were no reports of deaths or injuries.

"Compared to what we expected, we've gotten away with very minor damage," said a spokesman for Honolulu Mayor Frank Fasi.

Huge waves swamped coastal highways on Oahu and high winds ripped down power lines, knocking out electricity to an estimated 30,000 homes, civil defence officials said. The roofs of several homes and businesses were blown off.

Warships left Pearl Harbour to ride out the storm at sea. Navy planes fled Barber's Point Naval Air Station for bases in California.

An estimated 26,000 frightened residents and tourists jammed emergency shelters on Oahu. Small hotels and guest houses were evacuated on Waikiki Beach.

Mr. Fasi said on television he

had told the White House the island would be a disaster area and President George Bush should be prepared to send troops and assistance.

"This is one of the worst disasters we are going to experience in recent memory," he said.

The last hurricane to hit Hawaii was Iwa in 1982, which brushed Oahu and hit Kauai directly, killing one person and causing \$234 million worth of damage.

Iniki, which means "sharp and piercing as wind or pangs of love" in the local language, slammed into the chain of vacation islands with sustained winds of 145 mph (236 kph) and gusts of 160 mph (256 kph).

It was as powerful as hurricane Andrew which hit south Florida in late August, killing dozens of people and causing billions of dollars in damage.

Hawaii's sparsely populated northern islands — Kauai and neighbouring Niihau — felt Iniki's full fury.

Thousands of tourists and resi-

COLUMN

Japanese kids get first taste of five-day week

TOKYO (R) — Japanese children are treated this week to their first five-day school week, but many may soon be wishing for a return to the good old six days of classes. The Education Ministry is making the second Saturday of each month a rest day for the country's 18 million children. The move coincides with a nationwide cry for shorter working hours, reflecting criticism abroad of Japanese "workaholicism." "The key point in five-day weeks is to realise the importance of extra-curricular activities for education," a spokeswoman for Japan's National Congress of Parents and Teachers Associations said. But in the worst and most likely case, instead of extracurricular activities or just plain old play time, the children will be sent to Juku (cram schools), where conditions and teaching methods are much more spartan than in public schools. According to news reports, more than half Japan's school-age children go to cram schools in the evenings and during holidays to get the jump on fellow students in securing places in good schools and universities.

Japanese firm offers security service to women

TOKYO (R) — Japanese women afraid, like Cinderella, of going home after midnight can now hire escorts to protect them from attacks. Shin Nihon Keibi, a security company in the western city of Kobe, has launched a "Cinderella service" to walk women to their destination. "An increasing number of female managers in Japanese companies and more assaults on women in recent years have led us to start the new service," said company President Yukio Tokida. The service costs 100,000 yen (\$800) for an annual membership plus more than 5,000 yen (\$40) per escort.

Rubbish heap saves girl in suicide jump

HONG KONG (R) — A pile of uncollected rubbish saved the life of a 14-year-old Macau schoolgirl who jumped from the 15th floor of her apartment block after a quarrel with her aunt, police said Saturday. The girl was seriously injured in her suicide leap on Friday and rushed to a nearby hospital. Police in the Portuguese territory said a mound of garbage had gathered in the building's courtyard for several days.

Girl calls home to say reports of her death premature

NAMUR, Belgium (R) — A Belgian couple who were about to bury a teenage girl found dead in a ditch got a timely telephone call from their daughter to tell them the body was not hers. The 16-year-old girl, who was staying with friends, rang home this week after reading in newspapers that her mother had identified the disfigured body of the girl as her daughter, police in this southern Belgian town said Friday. "It was only when the girl called (her parents) that it was found out she was still alive," a police spokesman said. The mother had based her identification on hair, clothes and jewellery. Police said the mistake was caused by the fact that two girls of the same age and with similar characteristics had been reported missing from home at the same time in the same area. They said they were now trying to establish if the body was that of the other girl.

Pavarotti is trying to lose weight again

LONDON (AP) — Luciano Pavarotti said he is losing weight and hopes to shed 80 pounds (36 kgs) by eating only two light meals a day. "When I come back in a couple of years you will not recognise me. I will have to wear a carnation," a news conference was told by the 56-year-old Italian tenor. He said he had lost three to five pounds (1.3 to 2.2 kgs) a day in the past on the diet, which totals 1,800 calories a day. Pavarotti is reputed to weigh around 280 pounds (127 kgs). He did not dispute the figure when a reporter mentioned it, and answered questions about his size in good humour. Pavarotti, who lives in Modena, Italy, is starring in Giacomo Puccini's Tosca opening the new season at the Royal Opera House. He sings Cavardossi while soprano Elizabeth Hoggie of the United States makes her British debut in the title role.

Ramos seeks peace with Muslim rebels

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (R) — President Fidel Ramos appealed Saturday for peace in the southern Philippines, where Communist rebels and Muslim secessionists have been fighting government troops for two decades.

"I reiterate my appeal to you to support me with everything that you have so we can make the peace process succeed," he said in a speech at a university.

"I am confident it will succeed," Gen. Ramos later urged Muslim leader Nur Misuari, chairman of the separatist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), to consider the government's peace offer.

"Nur Misuari is missing a good opportunity. This is the best offer we can make ... I hope he takes advantage of it because he might be isolated," he said at a news conference.

Mr. Misuari lives in Saudi Arabia but his spokesman earlier rejected a government amnesty plan.

Gen. Ramos, who has offered an amnesty to all rebel groups, pushed his peace initiative during a visit to Zamboanga City in Mindanao. The southern island was the scene of a Muslim secessionist war in the early 1970s which killed more than 50,000 people.

"The uprising tapered off in the late 1970s after the government signed an agreement with the MNLF granting autonomy to 13 provinces in Mindanao.

Sporadic small-scale clashes have continued in the area despite a ceasefire agreed in 1986.

Gen. Ramos called for unity and cooperation to prevent a similar war from erupting again. But on Thursday a MNLF spokesman rejected the amnesty offer.

"It is a shame to accept amnesty. God will not forgive him who surrenders to his enemy," said Zain Jali. "The motive is for the MNLF to surrender. They cannot fool us."

Communist leaders last month also rejected the offer but later agreed to hold talks with the government to find a solution to the 23-year-old Marxist insurgency.

Georgian soldier killed, but truce mainly holds

MOSCOW (R) — A Georgian soldier was killed Saturday in a clash with Abkhazian separatist rebels, but a two-day-old truce generally held, a Georgian spokesman said.

But the Abkhazian nationalists accused Georgian forces of violating the ceasefire by attacking rebel positions and villages with machineguns and helicopters in several places.

An agreement to separate the rival forces was hammered out late Thursday by a joint commission set up by the leaders of Georgia, Russia and Abkhazia. The disengagement took place Friday.

A spokesman for the Georgian military commander in Sukhumi told local journalists rebels had attacked government positions along the railway south of the Abkhazian capital.

A soldier died and three more were wounded in the clash, which lasted one and a half hours early in the morning.

But the night was generally quiet in both Georgian-occupied Sukhumi and the rebel stronghold Gudauta, the spokesman said.

The Abkhazian nationalists, in a statement telephoned from Gudauta, said two fighters were wounded near Gagra in northern Abkhazia in a Georgian overnight attack.

They accused Georgian leader

Edvard Shevardnadze's men of shooting up three villages in southern Abkhazia around midday Saturday from helicopters.

Georgian officials say almost 200 people have been killed since Georgia, reacting to a bid by the provincial parliament for more autonomy, sent troops into the Black Sea region last month. Tens of thousands of people have fled to Russia.

A ceasefire between Georgia's Transcaucasian neighbours Armenia and Azerbaijan, which came into force on Sept. 1, continued to be widely ignored.

ITAR-TASS News Agency said clashes broke out through Friday night and Saturday morning in at least two areas of Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian-populated enclave inside Azerbaijan.

It said heavy fighting continued in the Mardakert region of northern Karabakh, leading to casualties on both sides, but gave no figures.

Both sides accused the other of shelling across the border between Azerbaijan and Armenia proper.

Azeri military sources told TASS Azeri forces had shelled an Armenian military convoy trying to cross to Karabakh from Armenia through Lachin path.

More than 2,000 people have died in more than four years of fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Children injured in German refugee hostel attack

BONN (R) — Two sleeping children were injured in an arson attack on a refugee home in Germany and four residents defending another hotel were hurt by stone-throwing rightists, police Saturday.

The children, aged four and six, were taken to hospital after unknown attackers threw a petrol-bomb at a window of the hostel in Hemsbach, in the western state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, early Saturday, police added.

A statement did not specify whether the children suffered burns or the extent of their injuries. A police spokeswoman said they were foreigners, but did not know which nationality.

In Quedlinburg, in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt, rightists hurled stones and fireworks late Friday at residents defending a refugee hostel in the sixth consecutive night of anti-foreigner unrest there.

Police detained 41 rioters and four people staging a vigil outside the hostel were slightly injured by stones. An ambulance called to the scene was also pelted with stones.

Germany has been rocked by a new wave of anti-foreigner violence since neo-Nazis attacked a refugee home in the Baltic port of Rostock last month.

Up to half a million foreigners

are expected to come to Germany this year, up from 256,000 last year. Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government wants to tighten the country's liberal asylum laws, blamed for the influx.

Meanwhile, a prominent far-right politician easily beat Chancellor Helmut Kohl in a phone-in poll on who should be Germany's leader, the mass-circulation daily Bild said Saturday.

Franz Schoenhuber, a former officer in Hitler's elite Waffen-SS force and now head of the far-right Republicans Party, was backed by 39 per cent of 218,423 callers.

The Christian Democratic (CDU) chancellor, whose popularity has waned because of soaring costs of German unification, came second with 23 per cent. Bjorn Engholm, leader of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), got 18.9 per cent.

Bild cautioned that its survey method had no safeguard to bar repeated calls, leaving it open to manipulation.

"Despite the possibility of manipulation it appears certain that people increasingly turn away from (established) politicians," the newspaper said.

It quoted a typical Schoenhuber backed as saying: "I am a CDU man, but I am voting for Schoenhuber to protest against the asylum problems."

Peace team fails to budge Khmer Rouge